Bank manager arrested for ₱200-M tax fraud

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

Senate squabble flares up anew

By Rocky Nazareno

ADMINISTRATION and opposition senators clashed anew last night over the effectiveness of the "compromise resolution" they had earlier signed to finally resolve their differences.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. rose on a matter of per-

SENATE/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

LQ or kidnapping? Strange tale from Negros

By Leila B. Salaverria, *in Manila*
and Alex V. Pal, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

INTERIOR Secretary Jose Lina denied reports yesterday that the daughter of former Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz Araneta had been kidnapped and rescued in Negros Oriental.

Lina said no such incident had been reported and if Fatima Araneta was

LQ/A18

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, August 1, 2002 ★★ 50 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 234 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Pact allows US structures

Golez: They can be built anywhere in country

By Christine Herrera, Carlito Pablo, Cynthia Balana and Juliet Javellana

RUNWAYS, helipads, barracks and roads.

American forces will be allowed to construct these "permanent" structures anywhere in the country for their use under the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA), National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday said.

The United States will turn over the facilities to the Philippines but US forces can use them whenever they are in the country, according to Golez.

Golez, who went to the Department of Foreign Affairs to welcome Blas Ople's first day at work as foreign secretary, said the Americans were already studying "for final approval" the final text of the MLSA.

Ople said a Cabinet committee had already revised the final text and submitted a copy of the proposed MLSA to the US panel for "final approval."

Ople said he, Golez, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, all members of the committee, met last Tuesday to finalize the text.

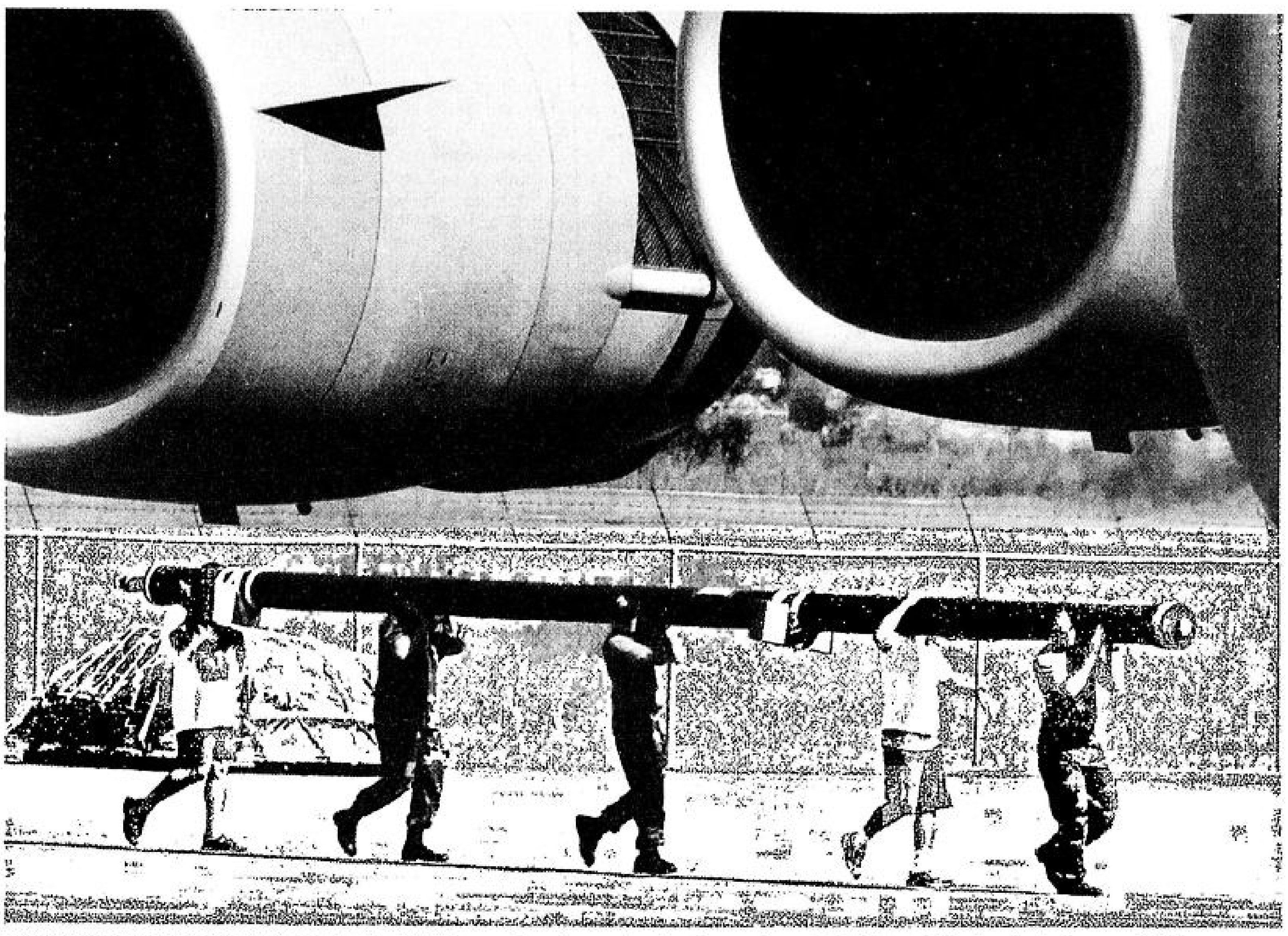
"The MLSA is a work in progress in the sense that the final stage is still subject to American approval. They are still studying the final text at their own end," Ople said. "At the level of the Cabinet, we have done our job."

Ople described as "fully satisfactory" the contents of the MLSA.

"The final revised draft takes into.account some of Vice President (Teofisto) Guingona's suggestions to erase doubts on (its) constitutionality," Ople said.

He did not elaborate on the

PACT/A17



A SUITCASE cannot contain the war materiel US troops have to pack up for home. A part of a Chinook is being loaded onto a C-17 cargo plane.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Michelle's 'adios' melts GIs' hearts

By Rolly A. San Juan and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Michelle called it a farewell fee.

From her usual charge of P50 for a pair of shoes, the most popular shoeshine girl around the Southern Command headquarters here was charging only P10 yesterday.

It was the feast of St. Ignatius, the patron saint of soldiers, and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu had declared the end of the Balikatan war games.

The gesture of the sixth grader, 11-year-old Michelle, surprised and touched her American customers. She had befriended every US serviceman assigned under Cmdr. Val Castillo, a medical operations officer of the US Special Forces.

Commander Val had developed a special bond with the children of war, especially Michelle. He was even thinking that this city is a good place to retire.

MICHELLE'S/A18

Balikatan 02-1 ends; US 'long-term assistance' to begin

By Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan, *in Manila*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The controversial Balikatan 02-1 formally ended yesterday with a declaration from the highest-ranking US military official in the Asia-Pacific that the RP-US cooperation against terrorism would lead to a longer partnership between the two countries.

"Our efforts to help the Armed Forces of the Philippines develop an enduring, self-sustaining counter-terror and counter-insurgency capability did not end with this exercise," US Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command, said in his speech. "Our assistance will continue as proposed under our long-standing and traditional Mutual Defense Treaty Agreement in the months ahead."

Fargo, who flew into the country to attend the simple but "very intimate" closing ceremony, said the new program of cooperation scheduled to start in October was dubbed the "Long-term Security Assistance Plan."

He later told reporters that under the plan,

BALIKATAN/A18

DENNIS SABANGAN

"INTIMATE" Balikatan closing rites, from left, Brig. Gen. Wurster, Defense Secretary Reyes, US Ambassador Ricciardone, Secretary Romulo, Admiral Fargo, Gen. Cimatu, Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Carolina and Brig. Gen. Teodosio.

EYEWITNESS allegedly to her husband's shooting in Lantawan, Basilan, Juraida Isnijal is presented by Bayan in a press conference in Quezon City where she reiterates that a US soldier wounded her husband, Abu Sayyaf suspect, Buyong-buyong Isjinal.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Bank manager arrested for ₱200-M tax fraud

By Carlito Pablo and Philip Tubeza

FIRST to fall were suspected big-time kidnappers. Yesterday, it was the turn of a suspected top-level economic saboteur.

"The message we want to send is we mean business," President Macapagal-Arroyo said at the National Bureau of Investigation headquarters where she announced the arrest of a government bank manager who allegedly siphoned off at least P203 million in tax payments to private accounts.

The President hailed the arrest of Artemio San Juan, manager of the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines branch in Binangonan, Rizal, as "a major accomplishment in our campaign against graft and corruption."

"Mr. San Juan is just the tip of the iceberg," Ms Macapagal said, adding that others involved in the massive tax scam were still at large.

She said San Juan, who was presented to the media in handcuffs, would be charged with economic sabotage as well as plunder since the amount involved was more than P50 million. Plunder is punishable by death.

"The republic will seek the maximum penalty against these economic saboteurs," Ms Macapagal said.

The President said she would soon unveil cases of massive underdeclaration of value-added taxes, amounting to P4 billion, by about 300 companies.

She said Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez had been instructed "to close the firms, file

BANK/A19

Strike 3, you're out; Palace official fired

By Carlito Pablo

STRIKE three.

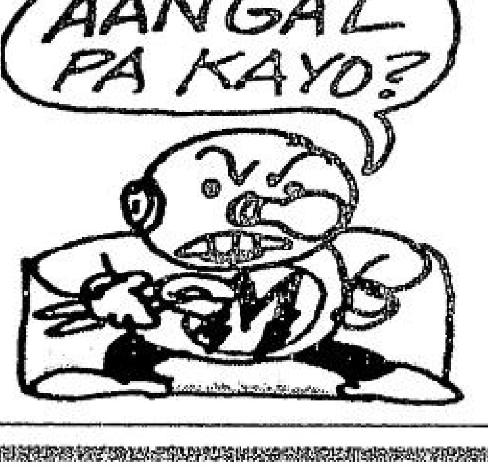
For the third time in six days, Malacañang yesterday got another bum steer, "*kuryente*" in local mediaspeak. And it was time for somebody from the office of the presidential appointments secretary to be fired.

Director Virgilio Salviejo was sacked for the release of a supposed schedule that Pentagon kidnap leader Faizal Marohombsar was to be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"My appointments secretary (Constancia de Guzman) fired the guy who made that mistake," President Macapagal told Palace reporters.

The wrong advisory said that

STRIKE/A20


ANO... AANGAL PA KAYO?

Meralco pulls plug on anti-PPA customers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co. is striking back at its critics, but appears to be picking on the little people.

A court petitioner against the collection of the purchased power adjustment (PPA) fee spent two nights without electricity for not paying the PPA in May.

Dave Diwa, chair of the Citizen's League for Good Governance, said yesterday that Meralco cut the power supply to his house and to those of his three neighbors in

MERALCO/A19

Second FRONT PAGE

NAKU... GRABE 'TO!

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN

BIR chief accused of plunder

By Clarissa S. Batino and Christine Avendaño

A CONGRESSMAN yesterday called for the ouster of Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez, accusing him of economic sabotage, plunder and gross violations of the country's laws.

In a privileged speech at the House of the Representatives yesterday, Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr. alleged that the Bureau of Internal Revenue under Bañez's watch, had paid P1.18 billion of the documentary tax liabilities of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Corp., where Bañez used to work as a senior vice president.

He said the government was also bound to lose another P6 billion in 19 tax cases against the FBDC, which Bañez had allegedly allowed to lose by default.

The BIR lost two of the 19 FBDC cases because of the failure of the BIR commissioner to appeal the decision, Saludo claimed in his speech titled "An Evil Most Foul" (subtitled, "the country's top taxman is in reality the top tax fixer, economic saboteur and plunderer rolled into one").

Bañez yesterday denounced the accusations of Saludo, protesting that the congressman was hiding behind the protection of parliamentary immunity.

Rehashed lies

Bañez said Saludo's allegations were "rehashed lies" made up by the enemies he had made while trying to transform the BIR into a stronger agency and to rid it of corruption.

He said that if Saludo had checked the records, he would have found out that "all his allegations were old and were dismissed by the appropriate agencies where some of the cases were filed against me last year."

BAÑEZ

Saludo made his accusations on the eve of the BIR's 98th anniversary and on the same day that legislators led by Speaker Jose de Venecia filed a bill to transform the BIR into an Internal Revenue Management Authority.

Saludo's charges were made just as the BIR had uncovered a P203-million tax divestment case involving a branch officer of the Land Bank of the Philippines in Binangonan.

The BIR chief accused Saludo, a ranking member of the majority party, of undermining the efforts of the administration to establish a better revenue authority in line with the objective of building a stronger republic.

"I have to consult my lawyers. His accusations were unfair and untrue. He should not hide under the privilege speech to malign and attack individuals," said Bañez.

The proof

Saludo claimed to have in his possession "unmistakable proof" of Bañez's "dirty and utterly despicable deeds at the BIR."

The evidence, he said, include documents showing how taxes were waived to favor the FBDC and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Saludo said that Bañez had worked as a senior vice president of the FBDC-Metro Pacific-PLDT conglomerate led by businessman Manuel Pangilinan before joining the BIR.

He accused the BIR commissioner of continuing to "lawyer" for the PLDT and FBDC, claiming that the BIR commissioner even went to Hong Kong to join Pangilinan during the recent negotiations for the PLDT buyout by the Gokongwei Group.

In yet another instance of Bañez's alleged wrongdoing, Saludo said the BIR commissioner was "instrumental in the reduction of the zonal valuation of the land at the FBDC project from P100,000 to P30,000 per sq. m."

He called this "extremely and scandalously undervalued" claiming that the same land was bought by the government for P33,000 per sq. m. when it was undeveloped.

Saludo also claims to have in his possession a special allotment release order (Saro) showing how P1.8 billion of taxpayers' money was used to pay for the documentary tax liabilities of the FBDC.

He said Bañez should also explain why PLDT and Smart Communications "managed to get away with the paltry and highly questionable and anomalous payment" of only P950 million in reduced income tax payments despite the two companies' "much-ballyhooed and highly publicized record-breaking income and profit records last year amounting to billions of pesos."

Refuted

Bañez answered Saludo's allegations point by point. First, he said the P1.18 billion paid to Fort Bonifacio was made in 2000 during the Estrada administration before he joined the BIR. The plunder case filed against him in relation to this issue a year ago was dismissed by the Ombudsman a month ago.

Second, the BIR Makati district had appealed two of the 19 cases before the Court of Tax Appeals but lost. He said the two cases amounted to P92 million.

As to his trips to Hong Kong with Pangilinan, Bañez said he had not been to Hong Kong for the past two years.

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Senators blame Camacho for budget deficit

By Cynthia D. Balana and Rocky Nazareno

ADMINISTRATION Senators Ralph Recto and Joker Arroyo blasted Malacañang's proposed P800.7-billion budget for next year for setting "unrealistic revenue targets" for the two main revenue agencies.

"It's like asking a hobbit to clear the bar at 10 feet!" said Recto of next year's proposed budget, which is P20 billion more than the budget approved for this year.

Legislators have been exercising themselves over the P807.7-billion 2003 budget proposal in the face of the ballooning budget deficit.

On Tuesday, the government raised the 2003 deficit target by 40 percent to P138 billion, having exceeded the 2002 first-half target by 53 percent.

"This budget will no longer work because there is no money," said Arroyo.

To Arroyo and opposition Sen. John Osmeña, the blame for the worsening deficit falls squarely on Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

"A government is only as good as its finance secretary. Malacañang assured us that Camacho was brilliant. Now this? Malacañang should have (Camacho) shot dead," said Arroyo.

Osmeña said Camacho should be "(hung) by his feet before being shot."

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the increase in the 2003 deficit target took into consideration the need to boost the economy, something the government would not be fully able to do this year with weak revenues.

"We really need to give some boost to the economy, although we do not believe in pump-priming by spending a lot. We do the pump-priming by doing the right policy and making the policy direction very clear," she said.

But despite relaxing its proposed deficit ceiling for next year, the government was committed to a balanced national budget by calendar 2006, she said.

"We're still committed to balance the budget by 2006, and the progressive reduction in the deficit-to-GDP ratio will continue. We have not wavered in terms of our policy direction," Boncodin said in a television interview.

The new 2003 deficit target is equal to 3.2 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

Boncodin said the government remains confident it would meet this year's deficit target of P130 billion, with revenue streams improving after the first-half targets were missed.

"If we exceed that, it would probably be by a small, insignificant amount," she said in a separate interview on local radio.

"If we miss our target by a big, big margin, I agree that the market will really be disturbed," she told the television station.

"I think it's a matter of confidence and credibility and that's why we have to maintain that credibility," she added.

President Macapagal-Arroyo brought back fiscal discipline when she came to power last year. The full-year deficit was brought down to P147 billion, just P2 billion above the original target.

Recto said the proposed budget was based on faulty assumptions and stood on shaky ground as it "can't be propped up by revenues."

Recto said the government may have set a high collection target for the two leading revenue agencies, the BIR and the Bureau of Customs, to justify the P20-billion increase.

The BIR is expected to contribute next year P465.5 billion to the state's coffers, and the BOC, P106.8 billion.

But based on BIR's track record so far, Recto said that target was unattainable.

He said that in 2001, the BIR was given a collection target of P441.6 billion but collected only P388.7 billion.

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Will Alvarez stay? We'll see, says Gloria

By Carlito Pablo

IF Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez was looking for a public assurance from President Macapagal-Arroyo that he would be retained in the Cabinet, he did not get one yesterday.

President Macapagal just laughed her way out of persistent questions from reporters over lunch about the fate of Alvarez, who has been having a difficult time getting confirmed by the bicameral Commission on Appointments.

"We'll see," Ms Macapagal said thrice with laughter when asked whether Alvarez is either out of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or will be given another chance to face the CA.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye earlier said that the President herself had dropped hints that she'll let go of Alvarez.

In a previous talk with reporters, President Macapagal simply said "well taken" to observations that the appointment of Alvarez is going nowhere because of controversies hounding him.

"I have nothing to say about the DENR at this point," the President said with laughter again when reminded that the agency was supposed to go to Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.

Guingona recently resigned as foreign affairs secretary due to policy differences with Ms Macapagal and was reportedly offered the DENR portfolio.

"Well, he (Guingona) said before that he'd like to take a couple of months off so that he can sort out what he'd like to do," President Macapagal said. "So we're respecting that."

The President, however, said that she hopes that Guingona will accept her offer to serve as the "Mindanao czar," or the official in charge of coordinating development efforts in the South.

"I hope he accepts being Mindanao czar," she said.

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ERAP PLUNDER TRIAL

Defense lawyers assail Chavit credibility, cite Gloria's 'favors'

By Volt Contreras

LAWYERS of deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday began showing the "biases" of juetengate whistleblower Luis "Chavit" Singson, by citing "favors" he allegedly received from President Macapagal for his role in Estrada's ouster.

Except for this new tack, the rest of Singson's cross examination at Estrada's plunder trial basically followed the same line taken by the defense panel during the impeachment proceedings against the former president.

Again, Estrada lawyers tried to portray the former Ilocos Sur governor as a hardly credible prosecution witness.

They cited Singson's lack of supporting proof as to the dates, places and events making up his accusations against the ex-president.

For much of the hearing at the Sandiganbayan, court-appointed defense counsel Prospero Crescini confronted Singson with newspaper reports of what the lawyer labeled as Ms Macapagal's "concessions" to the prosecution star witness.

Gloria's 'gift'

One report described the revival of the Northern Luzon Growth Commission as the President's "gift" to Singson during his 61st birthday celebration on June 21.

The President was quoted in that report as saying: "*Ayokong magtampo sa akin si* Chavit (I don't want Chavit to turn away from me)."

Another news clipping was of Ms Macapagal releasing in mid-2001 some P200 million to Singson's province as its share in the tobacco excise tax revenues. Curiously, this was the same form of public fund allegedly pocketed by Estrada in August 1999.

In this last report, Crescini said, Ms Macapagal acknowledged Singson's "many sacrifices" during Estrada's impeachment trial.

Outgoing Ombudsman Aniano Desierto questioned the relevance of citing things that Ms Macapagal did for Singson after Estrada's ouster.

He said Singson's testimony had remained basically "the same" as during Estrada's impeachment trial, implying that the alleged favors had not affected the witness' original position.

Disparities

However, the defense panel was able to show disparities between the two testimonies.

Singson's Sept. 14, 2000 affidavit, executed days before he went public with his expose, stated that Estrada called him to a "meeting" at the latter's Polk Street residence one evening in August 1998, and that Estrada pal Charlie "Atong" Ang and alleged jueteng lord Bong Pineda were already present when he arrived.

But in his recent direct testimony, Singson said he saw only Estrada and Ang talking in the kitchen when he arrived, and that Pineda joined them about 30 minutes later.

Crescini repeatedly asked for proof or other eye-witness accounts of that meeting, during which the subject allegedly discussed was expanding Estrada's jueteng payola network.

The lawyer also sought proof of the alleged meeting Ang had with jueteng collectors the following day at his San Juan office, regarding Estrada' cut from their collections, an event that Singson also claimed he witnessed.

'Maybe in the future'

To these inquiries, Singson consistently replied: "have none of that for now, but maybe in the future..."

Crescini also noted Singson' inaction as a government official at the time to "cause the arrest" of the personalities that he had linked to illegal gambling, referring to Estrada, Ang, Pineda and the jueteng collectors who met in Ang's office.

Singson had violated his own oath of office, the lawyer said.

"How could I make an arrest if the President himself had done nothing to arrest them?" Singson protested. "I could have ended up in jail, had I done that myself."

Ople vows 'world-class' foreign service at DFA

By Christine Herrera

NEW Secretary Blas Ople received a "warm welcome" from the diplomats and employees at the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday after he vowed to raise their salaries and help them build a "world-class foreign service."

At a general assembly, Ople got the longest and most rousing applause after he promised to lobby his former colleagues in Congress to hike DFA salaries this year.

"I was chairman of the Senate committee on foreign affairs for 10 years," Ople reminded his audience.

It was Ople's first day as head of the DFA yesterday.

"Most of the officers here at the DFA had gone before my Senate committee, so I value my early acquaintance with these diplomats," Ople added.

Earlier in the day, Ople held a teleconference with some Philippine ambassadors and other envoys abroad.

He had a good laugh when Consul General Ed de Vega in Mexico asked him to send "as soon as possible" the down payment for the hotel accommodations of the Filipino delegation to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to be held on Oct. 23-24 in Los Cabos, Mexico.

Collared by reporters later, Ople said he would start building a world-class foreign service by first solving the perennial passport shortage problem.

"I'm very concerned about the passport problem. I think we have a duty to improve the quality of our service to ordinary Filipino citizens who are entitled to passports," he said.

Ople said he would eliminate corruption and get rid of the "fixers'" at the DFA who take advantage of passport applicants by charging them exorbitant fees.

"We should make it easier for our citizens to get passports without a hassle. They have the constitutional right to travel," Ople said.

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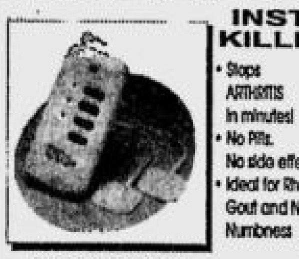

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Ampicillin Capsule 500mg	6.50	Paracetamol Drops	31.00
Carbocisteine (SCMC) Capsule 500 mg	4.20	Paracetamol Syrup 125 mg/5mL, 60 mL	23.50
Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	46.00	Paracetamol Syrup 250 mg/5mL, 60 mL	33.00
Chloramphenicol Capsule 250 mg	3.50	Paracetamol Tablet 500 mg	.90
Chloramphenicol Capsule 500 mg	5.90	Prednisone Tablet 5mg	3.10
Chloramphenicol Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	63.00	Pyrazinamide Tablet 500 mg	5.50
Co-trimoxazole Susp. (TM-40 mg, SMZ-200 mg) 60 mL	48.00	Rifampicin Capsule 300 mg	6.00
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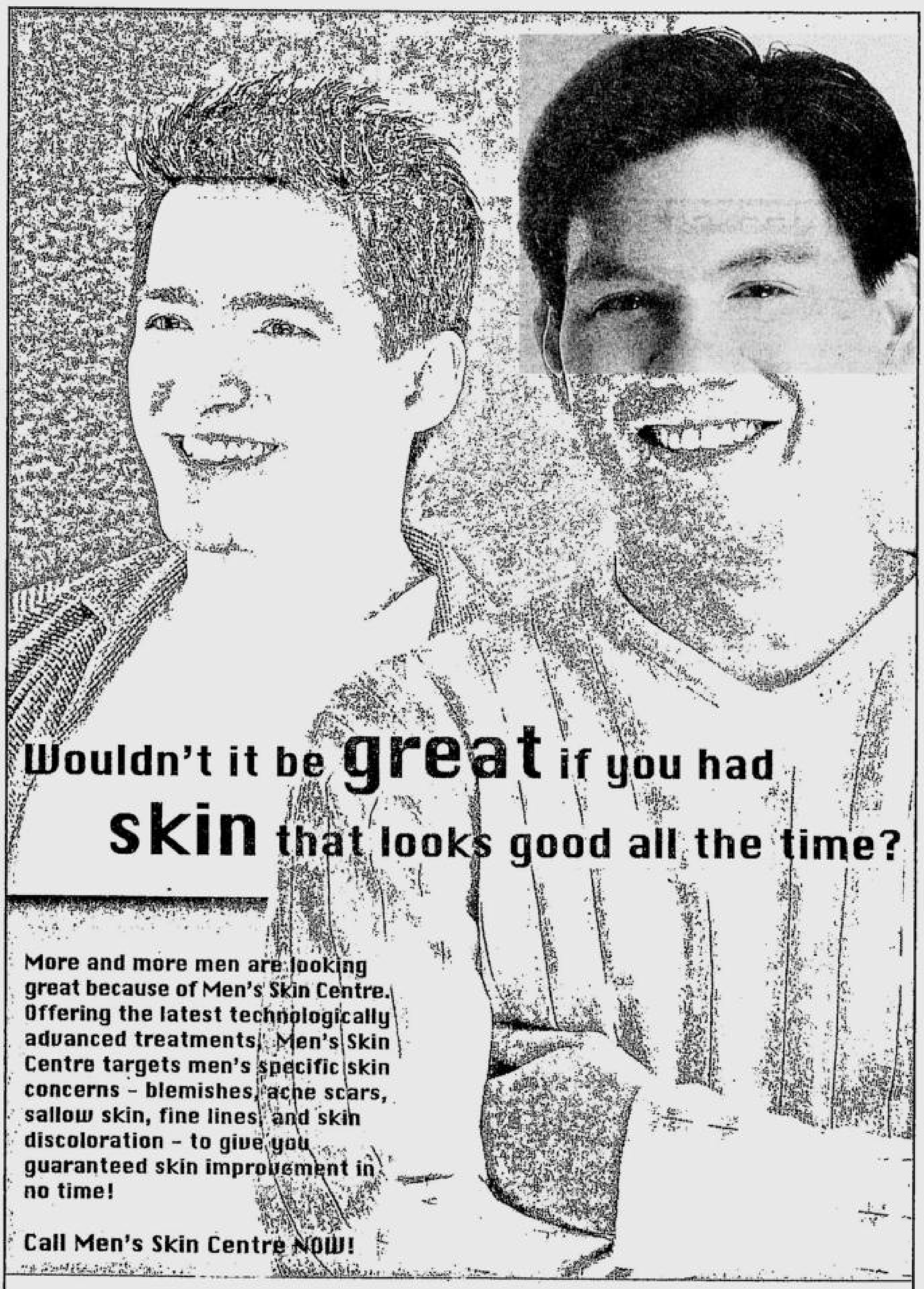
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Gloria wants integrity, competence in next Ombudsman

By C. Pablo and C. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she will be guided by two attributes when choosing the next Ombudsman after Aniano Desierto retires on Aug. 4.

"His integrity and competence—that's the two most important characteristics," President Macapagal said of her nominee.

But the President gave no hint whom she would appoint to the post, although Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo was said to be among the frontrunners with Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

Thank God

On Desierto's last day, Sunday, Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said he will go to church to thank God the Ombudsman's seven year-term is finally over.

"I thank God for allowing time to move on because time has finally caught up with Desierto," Moreno told the INQUIRER yesterday, about the official he tried to impeach in Congress early this year.

Moreno had endorsed the impeachment complaint filed against Desierto in December last year by lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr. for alleged bribery.

Early this year, Moreno was a signatory to the second impeachment complaint filed against Desierto, this time for the Ombudsman's alleged bungling of the cases involving the tax credit scam.

Both impeachment complaints did not prosper in the House, however.

Frontrunner

Solgen Marcelo's chances of being named the new Ombudsman are good, Palace insiders said.

They pointed out that he used to be a partner in the Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz Law Office, which has long and deep ties to the respective families of Ms Macapagal and First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

Desierto backs Erap prosecutor as his successor

By Volt Contreras

OUTGOING Ombudsman Aniano Desierto yesterday said he would prefer to have his successor coming from the team now prosecuting deposed President Joseph Estrada.

In a forum that also served as his testimonial luncheon with the Estrada prosecution team, Desierto said the historic trial exemplified his office's drive against the proverbial "big fish" in the government.

Between 10 and 18 state prosecutors regularly attend the Estrada hearings at the Sandiganbayan. Of them, three alternately play lead roles and have been reported as strong contenders for Desierto's post.

They are Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, and Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida.

Desierto made the remark in an impromptu speech during a luncheon forum organized by the Lawyers for an Ombudsman's Freedom and Tenacity (Lofty).

Other qualities the next Ombudsman should have, he said, include the "physical courage" to thrive amid death threats and assassination attempts.

His successor is sure to "lose many friends" in business and government, aside from being subjected to "political pressures."

"I won't be surprised if the new Ombudsman will be a religious person—for he (or she) will do a lot of praying," he said.

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USA MANILA BINONDO DAVAO

Comelec revamp looms; former chair welcomes Polaroid probe

By Blanche S. Rivera

REACTING to reports of corruption in the Commission on Elections, newly appointed chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday he would effect a major reshuffle in the poll agency.

Vowing that "no one would be spared," Abalos said he would make sure all Comelec officials, from directors to election officers, are moved to other assignments beginning this month.

Speaking at the press forum at the Ciudad Fernandina restaurant yesterday, Abalos said he will also order an investigation into the purchase of Polaroid cameras for identification cards that were never used in the 1999 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Abalos said he would start gathering evidence in the P47-million failed ID project.

The Comelec chair said he is contemplating selling the cameras that are sitting in the Comelec storeroom to generate much-needed funds for the poll body.

"We will sell the cameras if we have no more use for them," Abalos said.

Saying she had nothing to hide, former Comelec chair Harriet Demetriou said she welcomed Abalos' investigation into the legality of the purchase of the Polaroid cameras, which were acquired during her term.

She said there was nothing illegal about the purchase, which was made on the basis of an en banc resolution signed by the chairman and all the six commissioners of Comelec. She said it was done in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit and therefore above board.

The cameras were used during the special registration in the ARMM in preparation for the then scheduled elections. She said there was no need for a bidding because Photokina was the exclusive distributor of Polaroid cameras in the country.

"Chairman Abalos and the press are free to inspect or examine all the relevant documents pertaining to the purchase," she said. "I have nothing to hide. I even welcome any congressional inquiry into the matter."

Demetriou challenged Abalos "to also investigate the purchase of the 68 counting machines which was made prior to my time and which did not have the benefit of a formal contract."

Abalos also asked election lawyer Sixto Brillantes to clarify his complaint about the alleged corrupt practices of one of the six other Comelec commissioners.

Brillantes had written Abalos about the commissioner who heads a Comelec division and chairs an important committee and is rumored to be building a "war chest" to make a run for congress in 2004.

The Comelec is divided into two divisions to decide on election cases. The first division, presided over by Ralph Lantion, includes Resurreccion Borra and Luzviminda Tancangco; the second division is composed of Rufino Javier as presiding officer, with Florentino Tuason Jr. and Mehol Sadain as members.

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Poverty no reason to live in sin—Sin

By Armand N. Nocum

POVERTY should not be a reason to "live in sin."

Alarmed by estimates that more than half of Catholics in Metro Manila were unmarried couples, Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday called on all parishes to hold mass weddings at least once every two months.

"Free of charge," the Cardinal stressed.

He instructed lay church workers to find the "sinners" and minister to them.

In a statement, Sin said the situation was partly caused by the high cost of formal church weddings.

But, he said, no one should be deprived of the sacrament of matrimony because of material poverty.

He had one warning, though: keep the politicians away.

P1B in El Niño funds released

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

CLOSE to P1 billion in funds against the onslaught of El Niño is now available to national government agencies and local government units.

The P700 million released by the Department of Budget and Management to the Department of Agriculture is the first tranche of the total P2.9-billion war fund against the drought.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor has directed all DA regional executive directors to fast-track the implementation of measures to mitigate the worldwide phenomenon's effect on the country.

Montemayor said the initial amount would be used for the construction and rehabilitation of small water impounding projects, installation and rehabilitation of shallow tube wells, production support for vulnerable areas, livestock assistance, training assistance, and advocacy support activities.

Around P291 million came from 44 congressmen who had made good their pledge of P5 million each to the El Niño fund, Montemayor said. The DA expects a total of P1.1 billion from all 209 congressmen, to be culled from their Priority Development Fund.

Latest reports from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said the effects of the drought would be felt starting October, and might last until June 2003. The weather bureau also predicted an early termination of the rainy season, in the second half of September.

According to the Pagasa, at least 22 provinces in seven regions had been tagged "highly vulnerable areas" once El Niño hits the country. These are Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, and La Union in Region I; Cagayan in Region II; Zambales, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Bulacan and Pampanga in Region III; Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Occidental Mindoro and Palawan in Region IV; Iloilo, Capiz, and Negros Occidental in Region VI; Cebu in Region VII; and South Cotabato and Sarangani for Region XII.

On the bright side, Pagasa also said this year's drought would be "milder" compared to the one in 1997 through 1998.

Ernesto Ordoñez, agriculture undersecretary for operations, said the 44 lawmakers who turned in their contributions had submitted their project proposals, which included construction and rehabilitation of communal and small-scale irrigation systems, livelihood assistance, production support, disease control, farm-to-market roads, local water systems, and procurement of farm machineries and equipment.

ELECTRICITY PRICE WATCH

POWER RATES HAVE STARTED TO DECLINE as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo implements her 10-Point Plan to reduce electricity rates that would give relief to electric consumers.

One of her 10-Point Plan is to:

ACCELERATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN ACCESS

What is open access?

At present, practically all households and commercial establishments are not free to choose their electricity supplier. There are several generating companies that can supply power but consumers generally buy power only from their local distribution utility.

By the same token, generators/suppliers cannot sell directly to households and commercial establishments. They can only sell to distribution utilities who re-sell the electricity to end-users.

The implementation of the retail open access will break open this supply chain. Retail open access is a condition wherein consumers- industries, commercial establishments and residential users- exercise freedom to choose their respective supplier of electricity whom they deem offers the most reasonable cost and the most efficient service.

The supplier of electricity could be a power generator, distribution utility or an independent aggregator. An aggregator is an electric industry participant who adds together individual power requirements into a size large enough that would enable them to shop for a best deal in the power market. In like manner, power suppliers can directly transact business with any customer class- commercial establishments and the residentials.

Why do we need to implement open access?

The ultimate objective of the reforms in the power industry is consumer-focused, that is:

Consumer Satisfaction

The open access policy fosters competition that will naturally bring about increased efficiencies in the power industry. Because the threat of changing suppliers will be real which could mean possible loss of a market, all suppliers of electricity will be forced to maintain optimum operation to be able to offer the most competitive power rates and the most efficient level of service.

Consumer Choice

Given a wide array of electricity suppliers, industries will gain greater flexibility and effectiveness in managing their technical and financial activities with regard to electricity expenses. Well-managed operating expenses could lead to growth in economic activities.

Consumer Empowerment

In a competitive power market brought about by open access, consumers will patronize suppliers that can provide quality and reliable power services at reasonable prices. Likewise, consumers will not patronize suppliers whose level of service and power rates are not at par with what the market is offering.

How can we accelerate the implementation of open access?

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act mandates the implementation of the open access. The Law, however, prescribes certain conditions prior to its implementation. These are: establishment of the WESM, approval of unbundled transmission and distribution wheeling charges, initial implementation of the cross subsidy removal scheme, privatization of at least 70% of the total generating assets of Napocor in Luzon and Visayas and transfer of the management and control of at least 70% of the total energy output of power plants under contract with Napocor to the IPP administrators.

The Government, however, believes that open access can already kick off even without meeting all the pre-conditions. For one, the Energy Regulatory Commission has already started ruling on the unbundled rate hike petitions filed by the power firms. The DoE is also exerting all efforts to start by the end of the year the operations of the interim WESM. The DoE is also considering introducing a limited form of open access by the end of 2003, regardless of the privatization of Napocor assets by transferring the management of Napocor-owned plants and IPP-owned plants to independent administrators.

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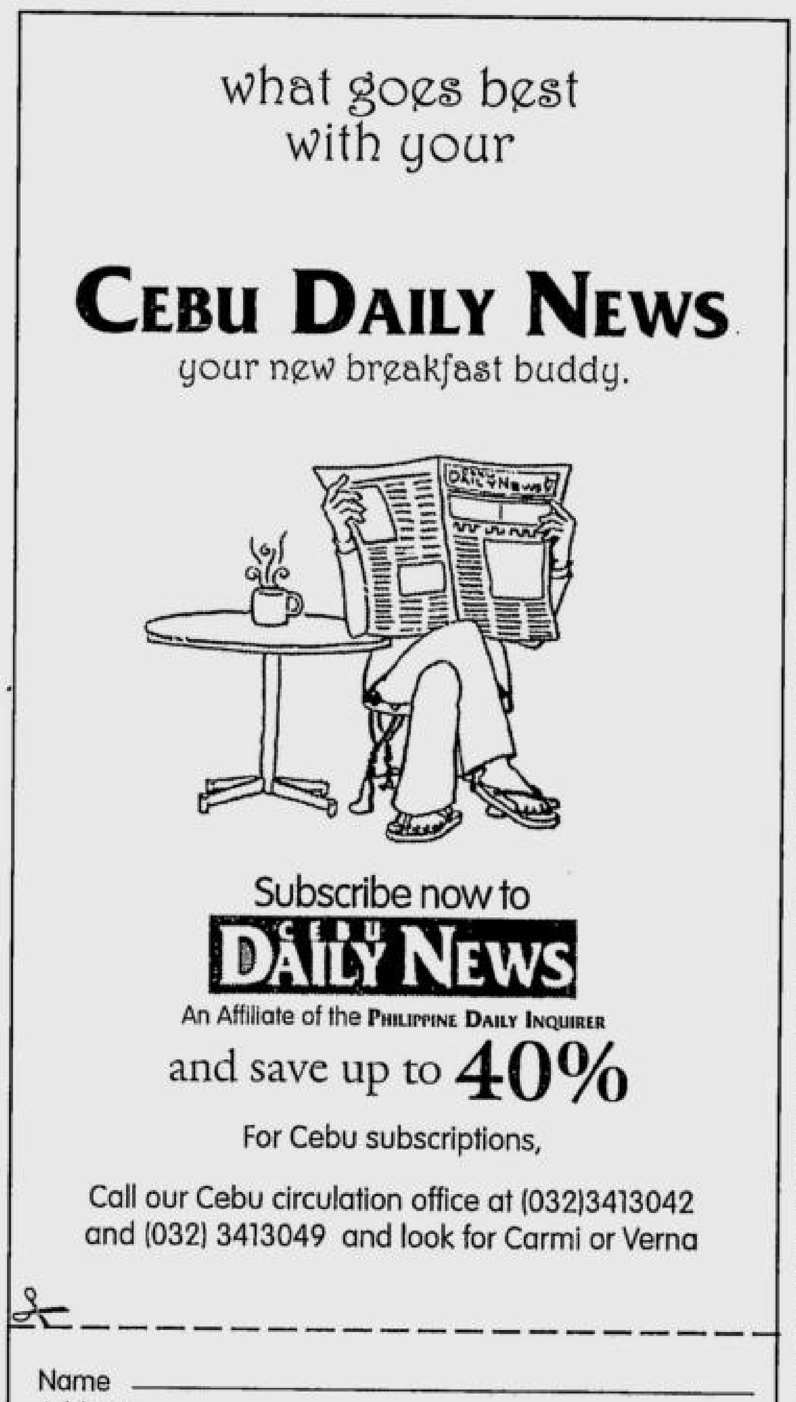
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Too many deputies at the House

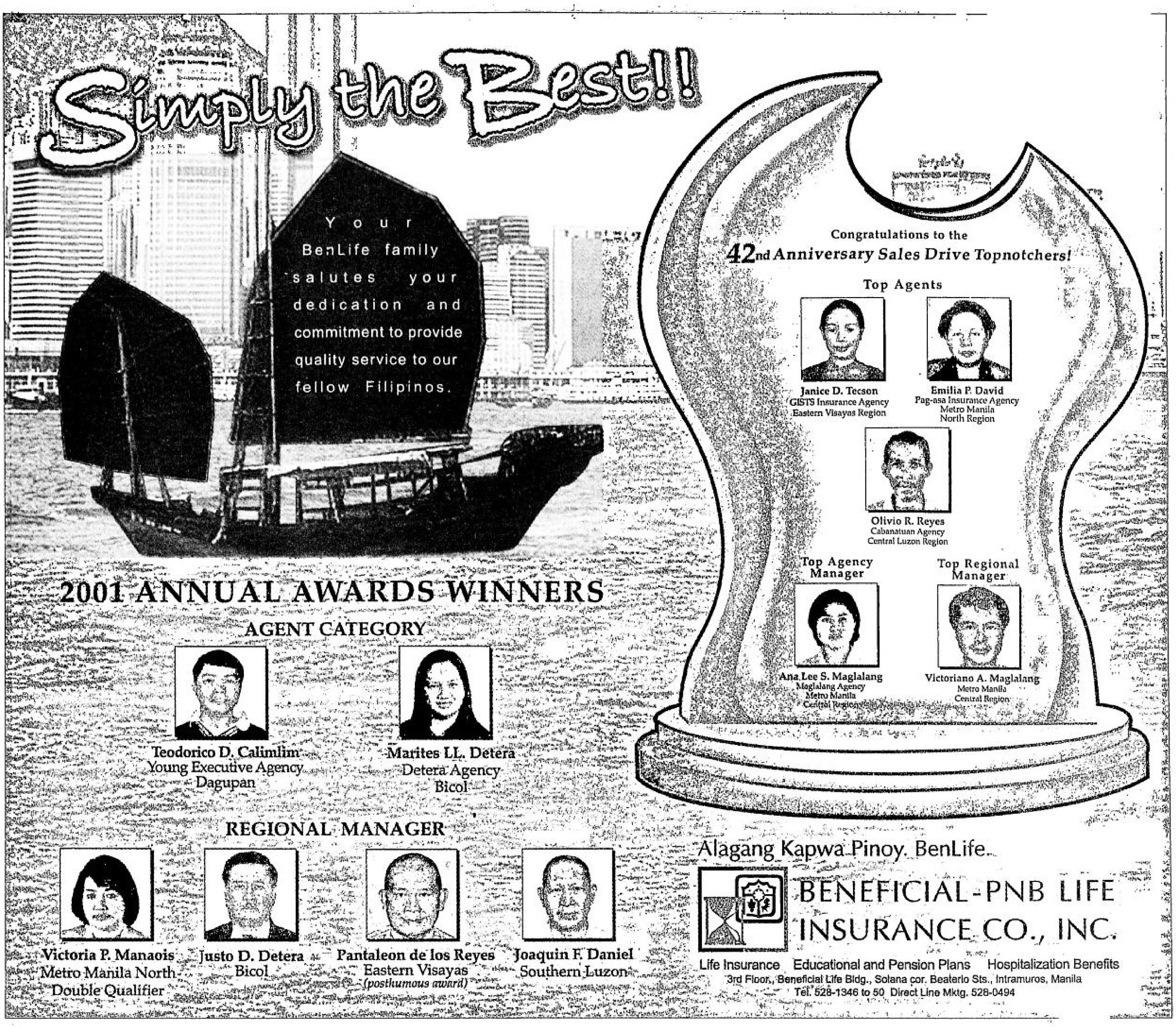
ILOILO Rep. Augusto Syjuco has urged the leadership of the House to slash the number of deputy secretaries general in the lower chamber as a way of cutting expenses.

Syjuco said the House now has 15 deputy secretaries-general, with each of them receiving between P78,000 and P87,000 per month in salaries and allowances.

"The House must set an example by reorganizing its bloated bureaucracy in order to reduce expenditures," Syjuco said in filing House Resolution 645.

Syjuco said a deputy secretary general receives a basic salary of P31,000 and representation and transportation allowances ranging from P47,000 to P56,000 monthly. They are civilian employees of the House.

Syjuco said the House should have only four deputy secretaries-general to manage "frontline operations," such as administration and finance, operations and engineering, inter-parliamentary relations and special affairs, and legislative and plenary affairs.



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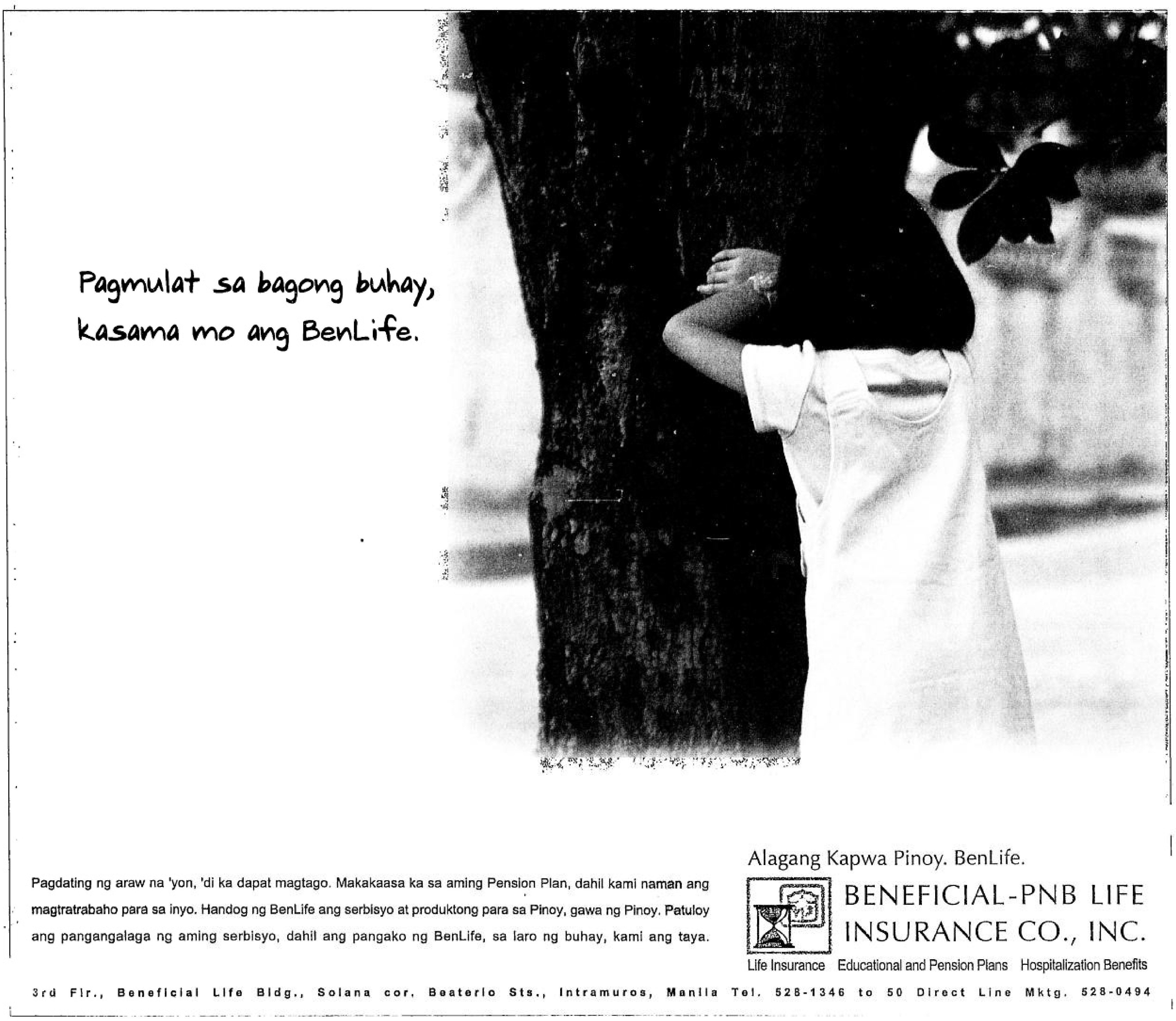

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SECRETARY ALVAREZ

Why do you love SHANNALYNE so much you become the scourge of Filipino workers?

DOCUMENTS, MEMOS AND LETTERS PROVE THAT SEC. ALVAREZ DISOBEYED THE PRESIDENT AND SABOTAGED THE PROGRAM TO CREATE ONE MILLION JOBS.

Up to now Sec Alvarez has continued to lie when the very memorandum he wrote to Her Excellency, the President confirmed PICOP's narration of the discussions made during the October 11, 2001 meeting in front of the President.

After the President inquired if PICOP could still reconsider its decision to totally shut down its operations by the end of October 2001 as per its notice to the PSE, we replied that PICOP would of course prefer to operate and save the 8,000 jobs that would be lost if two major problems that Sec Alvarez had been giving us could be solved.

However as PICOP is a PSE-listed company and has prescribed rules for deciding on such matters, PICOP requested for documentary evidence that such a direction would take place.

PICOP believed that with written commitments, there is a remote chance that Sec Alvarez' will not comply and disobey the incumbent President.

Thus the agreement before the President called for the following;

1)For the DENR to comply with the provisions of Section 34 of PD 1559, DAO 97-04 and DAO 99-53 that says;

“TREES AND OTHER PRODUCTS RAISED WITHIN THE INDUSTRIAL TREE PLANTATION, TREE FARM OR AGRO-FORESTRY FARM BELONG TO THE LESSEE WHO SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO SELL, CONTRACT, CONVEY, OR DISPOSE OF SAID PLANTED TREES AND OTHER PRODUCTS IN ANY MANNER HE SEES FIT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS.”

As related during the meeting, Sec Alvarez refused to release PICOP's 7-year CDMP for its IFMA 35 for four long months without any reason. The recommendation for its approval from Caraga region was already with the Secretary's office when Sec Alvarez assumed office.

The IFMA 35 CDMP covers the next cycle of harvesting the trees that PICOP planted to assure its newsprint plant of raw materials.

When Sec Alvarez finally released the approval on July 25, 2001, he put a condition that **“the 7-year CDMP shall be translated into detailed Annual Integrated Annual Operations Plans.”**

This meant that every year PICOP had to go back to Sec Alvarez to seek approval for harvesting the very same trees that PICOP planted in IFMA 35. This gives Sec Alvarez control over the harvesting which PD 1559 and the DENR's own DAO 97-04 and 99-53 specifically provides to be the right of the tree planter / owner.

Why Sec Alvarez has insisted on arrogating upon himself an authority effectively giving him opportunities to stop the flow of raw materials for an industrial operation even if such violates a valid and existing law and the DENR's own rules provided a clue as to what he had in mind. DENR staffers commented that he perhaps saw that the CDMP shows harvesting of 160 thousand cubic meters and he compares it with what it takes to approve cutting permits for less than 10 thousand. As he could not yet distinguish between planted and natural trees and had not familiarized himself with the laws and rules that differentiate between the two, he might have thought that harvesting 160 thousand cubic meters of planted trees should be making the proportionate efforts as that of 10 thousand cubic meters of natural trees.

In compliance with the President's directive, this was clarified in a letter dated November 22, 2001 that the DENR respects the provisions of Section 34 of PD 1559 and Section 20.2 of DAO 99-53. Why Sec Alvarez needed to have a Presidential directive to obey an existing law and DAOs of his own DENR was difficult to understand.

2)For the DENR to complete the automatic conversion of TLA 43 into an IFMA as provided for by Section 9, Chapter III of DAO 99-53 which provides that a TLA holder with satisfactory performance need only to submit a letter of intent and the conversion shall automatically take place.

Sec Alvarez balked at finishing this process immediately as he argued that the TLA would only expire on April 26,2002 and he could do it after his confirmation from the CA.

PICOP insisted that a pulp and paper mill could not operate on short notices and it had to plan ahead if it had to survive the free trade policies and competition it had been facing.

PICOP further pointed out that despite a Presidential Warranty over the area covered by TLA 43, Sec Alvarez only released the clearance for PICOP's Annual Operations Plan for TLA 43 on October 03, 2001 after delaying it for over two months. The delay caused the shutdown of PICOP's linerboard plant as this product was based on the wood materials being produced from the TLA 43 area.

PICOP also disclosed the callousness of Sec Alvarez to the efforts of PICOP, the country's only integrated forest, plantation and pulp and papermill in spearheading the campaign towards competing with imported paper and linerboard products using local raw materials produced from labor intensive plantations in the very depressed Caraga region now prone to substantial anti-government armed activities because of government officials like Sec Alvarez.

The President was informed that the dramatic product quality improvements and the slow but steady recovery of market share from imports would be definitely lost if the shutdown of PICOP's linerboard operations would be prolonged.

At PICOP's insistence, Sec Alvarez had to write the October 17, 2001 memorandum to the President that the conversion was being processed and that it would be finished by the end of October.

Despite this memorandum to complete the process by the end of October 2001, Sec Alvarez tried to stall the conversion process by insisting on negotiating with PICOP on the production sharing agreement and created a negotiating team under Special Order No. 2001-638 dated October 23, 2001.

Having been informed of this order, PICOP immediately wrote Sec Alvarez to kindly observe the rules provided for by Section 21, Chapter V, of DAO 99-53 which says that:

“THE SHARING OF THE PROFIT ARISING FROM AN IFMA BETWEEN THE HOLDER THEREOF AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE SAID HOLDER AND THE DENR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF THE CDMP AND THE GRANT OF ECC, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION, AMONG OTHERS, THE FOLLOWING COST FACTORS;”

The procedure calls for signing the IFMA documents first and submission of CDMP within one year. Section 14.2, Chapter IV, DAO 99 - 53.

In the same letter, we pointed out that **“we invested in PICOP thinking that with its infrastructure and facilities together with its plantation and wood resources, there is a capability for it to compete when full trade liberalization comes in 2004.”**

We called Sec Alvarez' attention to the fact that **“After three very difficult years, PICOP had managed to produce much better quality newsprint and linerboard from purely local wood raw materials, a breakthrough that had eluded this company for over 20 years.”**

That **“with this modest success, we are gearing to improve our costs as tariffs are lowered.”**

We appealed to Sec Alvarez that **“These restrictions on our local wood raw materials that PICOP had to bear for several months now set us back to where we started. In hindsight, we should have focused our 3 year efforts on developing the right process for purely imported wood raw materials.”**

That **“We should have ignored the tremendous benefit to the country of our use of local wood raw materials in terms of substantial local employment and economic activities.”**

We ended the letter by emphasizing to Sec Alvarez that “As our final decision on PICOP's shutdown remains on the table after you committed to the highest official of the land that by October 31, 2001, you will comply with the rules of your office on our automatic conversion, we will just wait till then if your commitment was made in good faith.”

After pointing out that Sec. Alvarez was not followingDAO 99 - 53, PICOP received Sec Alvarez' letter on October 26, 2001, informing us that **“pursuant to DENR Administrative Order No. 99-53 , we have cleared the conversion of PICOP's Timber License Agreement (TLA) No. 43 to Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) effective from the expiration of said TLA on April 26, 2002.”**

Believing in good faith that what Sec Alvarez committed in writing, he would now implement, PICOP then organized a resumption of operations starting with the production of newsprint in November, 2001.

SEC ALVAREZ CRIES BLACKMAIL AFTER HIS NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES ARE EXPOSED.

We are quiet investors and simple businessmen. We prefer to focus our attention on the coming competition when the markets are fully opened in 2004.

The thing we will avoid at all cost is to get ourselves in the crosshairs of very powerful political people like Sec Alvarez. More so that he is Secretary of a Department that has control over so many things that practically all commercial operations in this country has to do with.

In fact, PICOP only reported the developments and problems due to the squeeze and harassment by Sec Alvarez in disclosures with the Philippine Stock Exchange and notices to its stockholders. These were material things affecting a PSE listed company and disclosure rules require that these be reported immediately. Perhaps, if PICOP were not publicly listed, its stockholders do not number in the thousands, it does not employ over 8,000 workers and does not affect over 200 thousand residents in thirteen municipalities, PICOP would just have kept silent and died quietly.

The situation was very much like the neighborhood toughie whose extortion activities had suddenly caught the attention of a previously unconcerned community, Sec Alvarez had the temerity to cry blackmail.

But perhaps Sec Alvarez would excuse us for having been carried away by the call of Her Excellency, the President during her State of the Nation Address for all citizens to help her make a strong republic and fight corruption in government. We thought that with Sec Alvarez' official level so high and being the President's alter ego, the President could start her campaign against corruption in earnest by dealing with Sec Alvarez. Being familiar with the PICOP case and Sec Alvarez' sabotage of Her Excellency's initiative and defiance of her directive to save the 8,000 jobs in PICOP, she could act immediately and her sincerity to address this corruption illness would gain instant credibility by a convincing and decisive action on Sec Alvarez.

THE EXTENSION OF PICOP'S CORPORATE LIFE HAD NOT BEEN AN ISSUE ON THE SIGNING OF PICOP'S IFMA DOCUMENTS.

The more Sec Alvarez talks about his refusal to sign PICOP's IFMA documents due to the expiry of its corporate life, the more ridiculous and less credible he gets.

PROVERBIAL BIG FISH CAUGHT BY ITS BIG MOUTH!!!!!

FIRST, even if PICOP were to concede that its corporate life had ended, this event could happen only after March 31, 2002 and after failure to amend its articles of incorporation before such date.

Therefore, Sec Alvarez had no reason for refusing to sign the IFMA documents from the period October 26,2001, the date he notified PICOP that clearance had been issued for the conversion of TLA 43 to IFMA, up to March 31, 2002 that he claims PICOP had become legally dead. This was a very long period of five months to refuse to sign the IFMA without any reason.

SECOND, Section 11, Chapter III of DAO 99-53 requires all levels processing an IFMA application to either endorse or reject the same in five working days.

Why did Sec Alvarez refuse to obey the rules of the DENR? What is his real reason.

If Sec Alvarez signed the IFMA documents right after he issued the clearance letter on October 25, 2001, the process could have proceeded to the next stage without a hitch. As it is, PICOP's IFMA documents had remained unsigned, an act Sec Alvarez had been so cooperative with Shannalyne.

WHY ???

On March 26, 2002, PICOP held a stockholders meeting where the legal requirements for extending the Company's corporate life were completed.

The same were filed with the SEC together with the payment of filing fees as per Circular No. 2, Series of 1994.

PICOP is alive and validly functioning as a corporation.

How can Sec. Alvarez stoop so low as to announce the demise of PICOP and scare people doing business with PICOP?

OR

encourage Kaingeros now massively invading the areas of TLA 43, the last remaining forest in Caraga.

Is this a conduct becoming a Cabinet Secretary?

THE ISSUE OF PICOP'S FOREST CHARGES.

Sec Alvarez had been coercing all the Caraga DENR staff to come up with all sorts of charges and mud against PICOP. The latest imposition to come up with something was the week of the President's SONA.

As one DENR Head Office staffer commented, “ **Kawawa naman ang mga taga Caraga DENR, when they return to their posts, they will have to face the wrath of the PICOP workers that lost their jobs, Sec Alvarez can always take a flight to a 24 door apartment.”**

These issues were fully explained to Sec Alvarez' in one of his private meetings with PICOP's president. These forestry charges only become due after the forest products are segregated and taken out of PICOP's compound as had been the practice for so long. PICOP is the only forestry and plantation operator that brings down the whole tree to its mill compound as it is the only one in the country that utilizes practically all of the tree. It is not practical to segregate the same in the cutting area and bring them down separately just for the purpose of counting them separately. Why is it an issue now when it has not been one before?

Sec. Alvarez should read all his DAO's.

Sec Alvarez should not use this for an issue as even our Presidential Warranty clearly recognizes **“that the PICOP project is one such industry which should enjoy priority over the usual logging operations hitherto practiced by ordinary timber licenses.”**

SEC ALVAREZ DEFIES AND MALIGNS PRESIDENTIAL WARRANTY ISSUED BY PRES. MARCOS, EXECUTIVE ORDER 278 ISSUED BY PRES AQUINO AND DIRECTIVE BY PRES. ARROYO.

It was quite puzzling for Sec Alvarez, whose presidential ambitions were widely known, to question the issuances and directives coming from the Office that he so covets and perhaps dream about everyday.

As explained to him during a meeting on June 29,2002, his interpretation of the Presidential Warranty as a document issued to assure the validity of TLA 43 and that it expires with the TLA's expiry became very ridiculous and absurd if one simply noted the signatories. To emphasize the explanations, Sec Alvarez was asked how he would react if having entered into an agreement, PICOP would then request the Secretary to sign another document that assured PICOP that the agreement earlier signed was a valid and effective one. Could anybody ask an incumbent President to approve an agreement just signed and later a warranty to assure the other contracting party that the earlier one was legal and binding on the government?

Sec Alvarez finally commented that the Warranty should have been explained to him in such detail earlier.

He also violated and defied Pres Aquino's EO 278 issued on July 25, 1987 which specifies the minimum terms for co-production agreements that he signed with Shannalyne. Is Sec Alvarez accusing Pres Aquino of cronysm to justify his dishonoring EO 278?

SEC ALVAREZ GIVES SHANNALYNE ROYAL TREATMENT.

Up to now, Sec Alvarez has not answered the questions raised on the IFMAs signed with the Shannalyne companies.

Sec Alvarez claimed that the IFMAs of Shannalyne were all signed by his predecessors and had transcended three administrations.

True, former Sec Ramos signed four IFMAs totaling 61,334 hectares with two Shannalyne companies.

However, Sec Alvarez outdid Sec Ramos by signing five IFMAs more totaling 110,790 hectares. Sec Alvarez even issued a press statement extolling the virtues of the IFMAs he signed and had the photo published in a broadsheet with the appropriate caption.

WHY THE DENIAL NOW?

a)Is it because these Shannalyne companies have only a total of P 675 thousand of paid up capital among themselves, an amount ridiculously so low that it does not qualify under Section 10.3 Chapter III of DAO 99-53 that requires applicants to show proof of financial capability and will definitely fail to even cover the survey fees of P50 per hectare required per Section 10.4 of the same chapter?

b)Is it because P 600 thousand representing 72% of each of the four and 100% of Shannalyne were contributed by the alien stockholders thus making a mockery of Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution that requires that the development and use of forestland can only be placed in the hands of corporations at least 60% of the capital are owned by Filipinos?

c)Is it because, having only a measly amount for paid up capital, Shannalyne can not show any tangible activity from June 1998 that would have justified Sec Alvarez signing five IFMAs for 110 thousand hectares more?

d)Is it because the 110 thousand hectares Sec Alvarez signed exceed the limit imposed by Section 6, Chapter II of DAO 99-53 that limits IFMAs to 40 thousand hectares except in TLA conversions?

To defuse difficult questions during his confirmation hearings, Sec Alvarez made a big announcement that the Shannalyne IFMAs have all been cancelled. The argument was, the voided agreements need not be discussed anymore and thus the unanswered questions could remain so.

However, Sec Alvarez just did a sleight of hand.

The five IFMAs he voided, he replaced on December 08, 2001, with one co-production agreement with Shannalyne for all 110 thousand hectares.

Sec Alvarez invoked authority from Pres Aquino's EO 278 in signing the co-production agreement. In substituting one scheme for another, Sec Alvarez might have thought that questions on the Shannalyne IFMAs would no longer need to be answered. However, to those familiar with his style, he had to answer new ones.

1. EO 278 under section 5, (b) requires that as minimum terms in a co-production contract, “A stipulated share of revenues and the manner of payment thereof;” for the government must be included.

Why does the co-production agreement contain the same condition for the IFMA contracts under DAO 99-53 which says that “the sharing of the profit shall be negotiated immediately following the approval of the CDMP and the grant of the ECC.”

2. Shannalyne's paid up capital of P 400 thousand were all contributed by the alien stockholders. Did it comply with Section 4 of EO 278 that re-echoed the Constitutional requirement that development and use of forestlands could only be placed in the hands of Filipinos, corporations, or associations at least 60% of whose capital is owned by Filipino citizens.

Sec Alvarez claimed that for as long as the shares of the Filipino stockholders in Shannalyne were not declared delinquent, they could act as if they are in control of the company.

Sec Alvarez, in the five IFMAs and co-production agreements that you signed with the Shannalyne companies, were any of the Filipino directors /stockholders signatories for any of the companies?

What was the reason, no round trip ticket was provided by their employers? Their reentry permits to their place of domicile would need renewal if they left the country before their working contracts expire?

3. The co-production agreements simply lifted its provisions from the IFMA pro forma contract attached as Annex “C” of DAO 99-53. Thus 37 out of its 39 provisions belong to an IFMA. Why the need to title the contract as a co-production agreement when it does not comply with the minimum terms required by EO 278.

What was Sec. Alvarez trying to hide?

SEC ALVAREZ MALTREATED AND HARASSED A 50 YEAR OLD FILIPINO COMPANY WITH RECOGNIZED SATISFACTORY TRACK RECORD IN FOREST AND PLANTATION MANAGEMENT, LISTED IN THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, WITH THOUSANDS OF STOCKHOLDERS, 8,000 WORKERS AND PROVIDING LIVELIHOOD TO A REGION WITH 200,000 RESIDENTS WHILE GIVING ROYAL TREATMENT TO A MEASLY FUNDED, ALIEN CONTROLLED, NO TRACK RECORD COMPANY.

That Sec Alvarez gave royal treatment to Shannalyne is best exemplified by the fact that all this time, he has been the only one arguing and defending the signing of five IFMAs and a co-production agreement with them.

Are the Shannalyne alien investors not personally going to tell this country of what fantastic things are in store for the Filipinos, what benefits they will soon be providing through the P 675 thousand in investment that had entered the country. What kind of jobs will be created by simply accumulating hectares upon hectares of forestland through their contribution of P 600 thousand in paid up capital?

Shannalyne's P4 per hectare investment is quite cheap is it not?

Are they not going to describe how they will put up the pulp mill that Sec Alvarez claims they will do and the means by which they will raise the One Billion dollars that it will require to set up one?

OR perhaps explain to the Filipinos what it took to have Sec Alvarez as spokesman explaining to the country how lucky it was to have Shannalyne as investors while at the same time choking and harassing PICOP?

That because Caraga already have Shannalyne, the region can now do away with PICOP anyway it is already a 50 year old company whose corporate life was allegedly not extended through Sec. Alvarez' pronouncements,

OR

that Shannalyne can hire the 8,000 workers that have been displaced,

OR

create the same number of jobs having held 60 thousand hectares of forestland for three years without any tangible plantation activity to show.

That the breakthrough in producing world quality newsprint and kraft linerboard using purely local wood materials is not meaningful because Shannalyne will put up a Billion Dollar pulp mill using P 675 thousand in paid up capital as starting point?

That because Shannalyne's principals are aliens who love this country more than the investors who have made the mistake of investing in PICOP thinking that such commercial interest in the countryside will be supported and appreciated by the government and officials like Sec Alvarez?

PICOP WAS ONLY ASKING WHAT IT DESERVED AND WHAT THE LAW AND REGULATIONS PROVIDE. PICOP WAS HARASSED MASSIVELY AFTER IT STUMBLED INTO THE HUGE ANOMALY.

PICOP deserves the automatic conversion of its TLA 43 into an IFMA.

Legal processes will prove these if need be.

In the process of asking what PICOP was entitled to it has stumbled into an anomaly of huge proportions.

In the process, PICOP has been maligned, harassed and squeezed.

The various pronouncements and massive media campaign of Sec Alvarez have hurt PICOP badly.

Sec Alvarez has scared our creditors and suppliers. Many of our talents have already been attracted by offers to work overseas, affected by the nasty campaign against the company.

Is stumbling into the Shannlyne IFMAs the reason why Sec Alvarez hate PICOP so much he has been announcing that PICOP is dead?

PICOP STILL HAS THE CAPACITY TO COMPETE AND FIGHT.

PICOP still has substantial strengths remaining.

PICOP's life will be decided by how the workers, managers and its associates work together and not by what Sec Alvarez announces in his press releases.

If the “strong republic” will relieve PICOP of the monkey on its back and pry back Sec Alvarez' long and dirty fingers now choking PICOP's throat, PICOP can still move forward and do battle with the best paper and linerboard producers of the world.

Relieve the distraction that has disturbed PICOP's focus for more than a year now and PICOP will still give imports a tough fight.

Provide us hope, redeem our pain and PICOP will contribute the finest piece of stone to the edifice that will be the strong Philippine Republic.

Do nothing now and PICOP shall kneel down and invite all Filipinos to join us in prayers.

Only divine intervention will help our beloved country from the deluge that is about to come.

Amari appeals SC verdict

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DEVELOPER of the reclaimed foreshore and offshore lands in Manila Bay has asked the high tribunal to reverse a decision that voided the private corporation's 1995 contract with the government's Public Estate Authority (PEA).

In a 52-page motion for reconsideration filed Tuesday, the Amari Coastal Bay Development Corp. claimed that, with the Supreme Court decision handed down on July 9, the "vision" of the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road and Reclamation Project (MCCRRP) now rested "on shaky ground."

In an unprecedented decision on July 9, the SC declared null and void the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) between PEA and Amari as amended, and stopped further implementation of one of the biggest projects ever undertaken by the national government.

The project had been approved by the four past presidents, Amari pointed out in its appeal, warning that the SC decision supported foreign investors' view that the Philippine government had no established and stable investment and business policy.

Amari challenged the high court: "How will the shareholders and investing public be compensated for relying on the government in good faith?"

As of June 30, Amari disclosed, the project development cost had amounted to a whopping P9.8 billion.

Amari has been renamed Central Bay Reclamation and Development Corp. Other private corporations in the MCCRRP that were affected by the SC ruling, Amari said, included the Manila Bay Development Corp., Pasay-Hong Kong Realty Development Corp., R1 Consortium, AsiaWorld Properties Corp., SM Inc., Metrobank Group and Coastal Road Corp.

The high court ruled that the earlier transfer to Amari of the ownership of 77.34 hectares of reclaimed land that made up "Freedom Islands" was illegal. It said the Constitution prohibited private corporations from acquiring any kind of "alienable land of the public domain."

Freedom Islands, covered by Certificates of Title in the name of PEA, a government entity, were alienable lands of the public domain, said the SC.

As such, the high court said, they might be leased by PEA to private corporations but not sold, or their ownership transferred, to private corporations.

Also voided by the SC decision was the impending transfer to Amari of 290.156 hectares of still submerged areas of Manila Bay.

The move to reclaim certain areas of Manila started in 1973. In 1977, former President Ferdinand Marcos issued Presidential Decree No. 1084, creating PEA.

In January 1988, then President Corazon Aquino issued Special Patent No. 3517 granting and transferring to PEA "the parcels of land so reclaimed under the MCCRRP containing a total area of 1,915,894 square meters."

In April of the same year, the Register of Deeds of Parañaque issued three Transfer Certificate of Titles in the name of PEA covering the three reclaimed islands located at the southern portion of the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road in Parañaque.

The Freedom Islands have a total land area of 1.5 million square meters, or 157.841 hectares.

In 1995, PEA entered into a JVA with Amari to develop the Freedom Islands. The JVA required the reclamation of an additional 250 hectares of submerged areas surrounding these islands to complete the configuration in the master development plan.

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THE HEARING CARE PROFESSIONALS

Maritime inspection team formed

TRANSPORTATION and Communication Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza has ordered three maritime agencies to form a joint inspection team for vessels in the domestic trade to ensure the safety of maritime travel.

The joint team will be composed of personnel from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), according to a press statement from the transportation department.

Mendoza directed Commandant Reuben Lista of the PCG, Administrator Oscar Sevilla of the Marina and General Manager Alfonso Cusi of the PPA to form a joint/composite team of technical personnel to conduct safety inspections of all types and sizes of passenger And cargo vessels.

He said the inspection team is empowered to recommend the withdrawal of the departure clearance of a ship if found to be not seaworthy or unsafe.

Mendoza said the functions and authority of the joint inspection team will be separate and distinct from the Coast Guard mandate to conduct routine pre-departure inspection of vessels.

He said the three agencies would jointly formulate rules and regulations and guidelines on the composition of the inspection team.

He said the creation of a joint inspection team is necessary to ensure that there will be no more finger pointing among the maritime agencies in ensuring the seaworthiness of domestic ships plying the country's sea lanes.

"This will also ensure proper coordination between and among the maritime agencies," Mendoza added.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 1, 2002
17th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Jer 18:1-6
Gospel: Mt 13:47-53

Jesus said to the crowds, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a big fishing net let down into the sea, in which every kind of fish has been caught. When the net is full, it is dragged ashore. Then they sit down and gather the good fish in buckets, but throw the worthless ones away. That is how it will be at the end of time; the angels will go out to separate the wicked from the just and throw them into the blazing furnace, where they will weep and gnash their teeth."

Jesus asked, "Have you understood all these things?" "Yes," they answered. So he said to them, "You will see that every teacher of the Law who becomes a disciple of the Kingdom is like a householder who can produce from his store things both new and old."

When Jesus had finished these parables, he left the place.

Commentary

We can find anything on the net, many good things and also a lot of garbage. The internet is the most comprehensive mirror that the human race has ever had. By speaking of the fishing "net," Jesus reminds us that the first activity of the Church must be the mission: "to catch people." Many of them surely will not persevere, but a Church that encloses itself and forgets its missionary dimension would die. How we would like to have a perfect "catch," a perfect Church made of only upright persons! Christ, however, did not want a Church like that, nor is that the way for the Church to save the world. Good and evil will fill the net. We need the patience of good fisher folk; patience with ourselves and with others, patience with so many situations in life.

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DEADLINE for submission of entries is August 5

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Deadline for submission of entries is **midnight of August 5, 2002.** So get your brushes ready - and be part of another colorful and exciting ArtPetron year!

For inquiries, please call our Project Secretariat c/o Studio 5 Designs
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COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY / OTHERS
COURSE / DEGREE
SCHOOL ADDRESS
TEL. NO.
How did you learn of the competition? (Please check one)
☐ POSTER ☐ BROCHURE ☐ ART GROUP ☐ ADVERTISEMENT ☐ OTHERS
Where did you get the application form: ☐ SCHOOL ☐ WEBSITE ☐ ART CLASS
☐ PETRON SERVICE STATION (Location)
Have you had any formal visual arts training? If yes, please indicate.
☐ YES ☐ NO
Have you ever joined any painting competition in the past? What competition and year?
☐ YES ☐ NO

I hereby swear to the truth of the information provided above
and have read, understood and will abide by the contest rules
and regulations as stated.

SIGNATURE ABOVE PRINTED NAME

PLEASE ATTACH your three 2x2 photos, a copy of your birth certificate, photo of artwork and certificate of enrollment.
Please secure a copy of the affidavit via www.artpetron.com.

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Brief description of your chosen indigenous craft:

SIZE MEDIUM USED ESTIMATED SELLING PRICE
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OPINION

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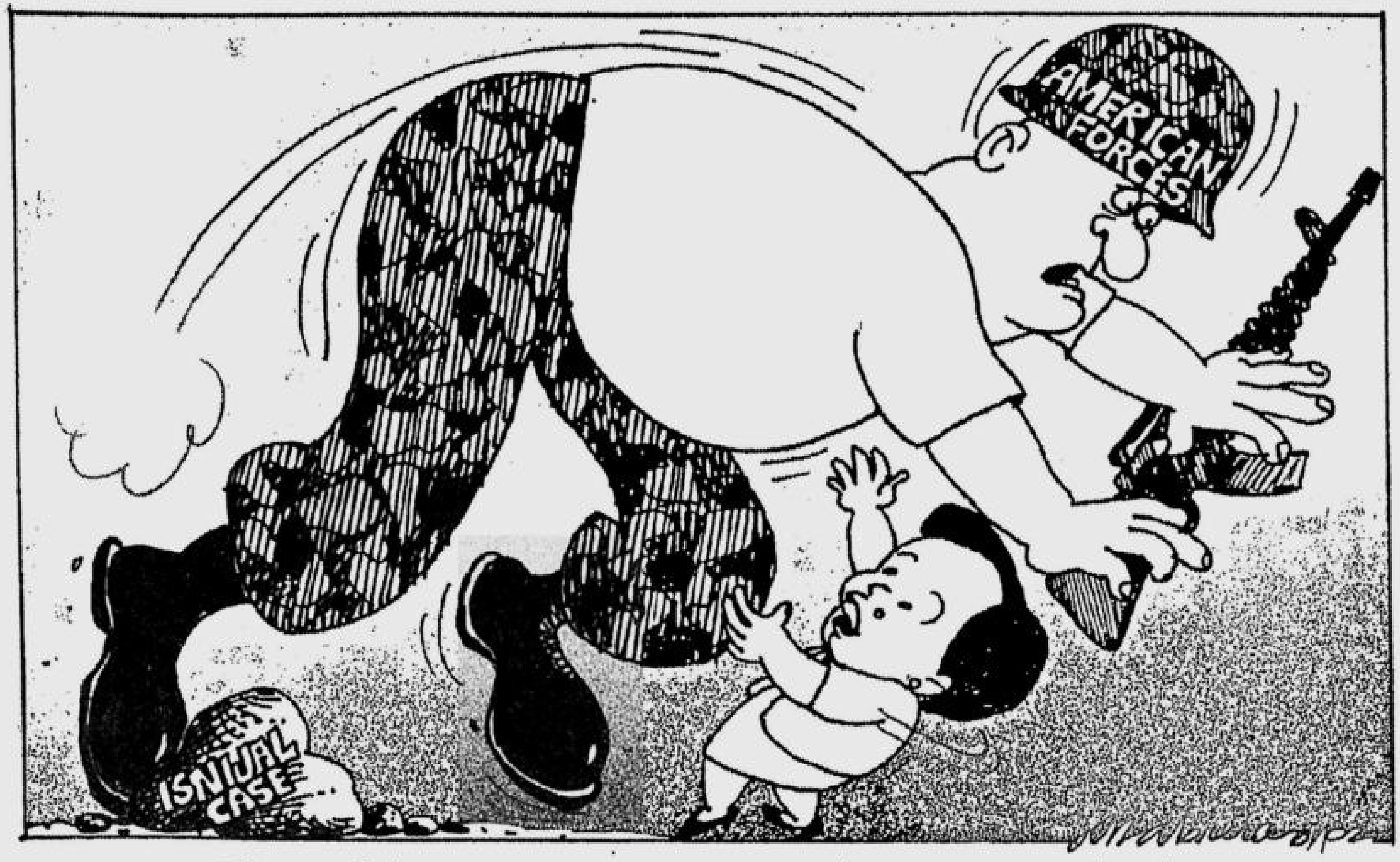

Uncertainty over MLSA

EDITORIAL

THE MUTUAL Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) between the Philippines and the United States is expected to be signed during or immediately after the visit here of US Secretary of State Colin Powell later this week.

Negotiations on the MLSA have been going on since President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the United States last January. Despite this lengthy process, no one is certain whether the MLSA would establish new US bases, which are forbidden by the Philippine Constitution following the withdrawal of these bases in 1992 in the historic Senate vote rejecting a new bases treaty.

This uncertainty, together with the lack of transparency in the negotiations, has fueled speculation that the MLSA contains basing provisions. Except for some reports in the press revealing details of the supposed "final draft" of the agreement, all that the public has gotten from the administration are assurances that: (1) no new bases will be established; (2) the constitutional ban will be respected and (3) the MLSA is not a treaty but an executive agreement that does not require Senate ratification.

The MLSA seeks to allow the United States to provide "logistic supplies, support and services" in the pursuit of its security commitments to the Philippines, within the framework of the Visiting Forces Agreement and the Mutual Defense Treaty. The definition of support and services include billeting, transport and communication facilities, construction incident to operations and storage services. It is not clear how long these facilities will be in place, and this is precisely the source of fears that, given the US strategic concerns in Asia in connection with its campaign against international terrorism, the facilities could become more or less permanent and the presence of US forces could be open-ended.

The American and Philippine governments have decided to steer clear of the political traps of Senate ratification by treating the MLSA as an executive agreement. They have apparently crafted the provisions to make it appear that the constitutional restraints are not violated.

The refusal of the administration to disclose the final draft has prompted the House foreign affairs committee to request the US Embassy for a briefing on the draft agreement from Powell. Public concern stems from the possibility that the MLSA would be signed even before the public has a chance to know its contents. The government's argument seems to be that it knows best what is in the national interest.

For the purpose of gaining public support for the MLSA, it is not enough that the President and newly appointed Foreign Secretary Blas Ople echo the assurance of US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone that it is but a "relatively low-level agreement between military to military." Ricciardone has described its provision as "a simple kind of accounting procedure between us and other friendly countries," referring to similar agreements the United States has with 80 other countries. "We do things for you, and you do things for us and we agree how to account for it with each other."

How the final draft adheres to the constitutional provisions appears to be the foremost concern of the negotiators from both sides, so local nationalistic sensitivity would not be offended. As Ricciardone said, "Whatever you want in it, you decide through your democratic processes, and we will respect it 100 percent."

Still, there is no substitute for transparency. If, indeed, the draft will show that the constitutional constraints are respected, then there is no reason to balk at a disclosure of the draft.

The possibility of putting up fixed bases as the anchor of US strategic defense like it was during the Cold War is deemed remote. The strategic thinking in the Pentagon considers bases a thing of the past, being expensive to maintain and politically messy. Their importance has been replaced by flexible and mobile deployment of forces in trouble spots.

But underpinning the misgivings over the MLSA is the uncertainty that the logistic facilities established under the agreement could serve as platforms supporting US forces engaged in military action in third countries that are targets of the war on terrorism.

If the MLSA is just an "accounting procedure," then there should be no problem disclosing its contents before it is signed. But from the definition of logistic, support and supplies, the MLSA may be more than a technical procedure.

Should Cimatu's term be extended?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo promised to build a strong republic during her second State of the Nation Address last Monday. But the way things are going, with one of the ramparts of a strong state—a unified and tightly disciplined Armed Forces of the Philippines—buffeted by intense jockeying for the post of chief of staff, the President's promise to build a sturdy republican edifice could collapse even before the first stone has been put in place.

A statement from one group pushing for one candidate asks: Is it wise to play a game of musical chairs for the top AFP post?

Reports say there are six contenders for the post now held by Gen. Roy Cimatu, who was appointed only last May 18. The same reports say the President is set to replace Cimatu by Sept. 4, after only a three-month tenure.

It is, of course, the President's prerogative to put whomever she wants at the top AFP post. But appointing a succession of generals for very brief terms is not going to do the AFP any good.

The President may be trying to please everyone in the top hierarchy of the AFP by appointing them one after another as chief of staff. But keeping everybody happy will not ensure continuity of policies and programs in the AFP. The modernization program, for instance, is a long-range effort spread out over so many years. Every chief of staff will have his own priorities, which may not necessarily be compatible with the overall thrust of the modernization program. Or he may have his own ideas of what strategy and tactics will work in the fight against terrorism that may not be consistent with the thinking of the other generals.

Keeping everybody happy is a sure-fire prescription for instability in the AFP, because the generals will be constantly jockeying for positions. And that is what is happening now. Even as I write this, different groups are applying pressure and influence and mounting public relations campaigns in support of their candidates. And there is another group that is working for the retention of Cimatu.

The last group anchors its arguments on Section 7 of Article XVI of the Constitution: "The tour of duty of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces shall not exceed three years. However, in times of war or other national emergency, the President may extend such tour of duty."

This provision is interpreted by the pro-Cimatu group as meaning that the tour of duty of the AFP chief of staff is "automatically" three years, unless the President cuts it short, or extends it during times of war or national emergency. Under this interpretation, Cimatu is entitled to serve the full three-year term, subject, of course, to the President's approval.

The trouble with this interpretation is that it conflicts with the AFP retirement law that says a soldier shall be compulsorily retired at the age of 56. Cimatu will reach that retirement age on Sept. 4.

Other groups say that the three-year tour of duty of the chief of staff mentioned in Section 7, Article XVI of the Constitution sets a maximum number of years of service, not a minimum. The Constitution says "shall not exceed"; it does not say "shall be a minimum of." Under this interpretation, the tour of duty of the AFP chief can be less, but not more than three years, unless extended by the President in "times of war or other national emergency." But we are neither in a state of war nor national emergency, so the President cannot do that.

A short tenure, such as Cimatu's three-month term, is not among the reasons for extending a tour of duty. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's tour of duty as AFP chief of staff during a turbulent period right after the series of coup attempts against President Aquino was exactly 82 days. But his tour of duty was not extended by the beleaguered President Aquino.

Which brings us to the original question: Is it wise to have a succession of chiefs of staff with short terms in order to make happy as many generals as possible? The answer is obviously "No." Seniority is not the only criterion for a general to be elevated to the top AFP post. Among other considerations, he must have enough time between his appointment and his compulsory retirement to affect and implement meaningful reforms in the military establishment. That may make a number of generals unhappy, but that is life: you win some, you lose some. But it should make even ambitious generals happy if what fate gives them is for the best interest of the whole nation.

* * *

Today's joke taken from the July issue of the Reader's Digest has been adapted to suit Philippine conditions and characters:

An asteroid hit the earth and many people died. Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Robert Jaworski, and Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople reached the Pearly Gates at the same time, where God, sitting on his golden throne, was waiting for them.

"Before I let you in," said God, "you must tell me what you believe."

Turning to Biazon, he asked "What do you believe?"

"I believe in the independence of the Senate," Biazon replied.

"Very good," said God. "Here, sit on my right." Then he asked Jaworski the same question.

"I believe in the solidarity of the family," said Jawo.

"That's okay," said God. "Sit on my left."

God then turned to Ople and asked. "How about you, what do you believe?"

"I believe," replied Ople, "that you are sitting on my chair."

Richly deserved

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HILARIO Davide, the Chief Justice, is this year's Ramon Magsaysay choice for the government service award. His citation says the honor is being bestowed upon him for "his life of principled citizenship in profound service to democracy and the rule of law in the Philippines."

Those words are richly deserved.

I remember my amazement early this year when Erap's lawyers took the strategy of attempting to discredit Davide to defend their client. They tried to show that Davide had not acted in a fair-minded and impartial way when he decided, as Chief Justice and head of the impeachment court, four days into Edsa II to swear in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President. There was, they said, bias and premeditation on his part.

I was tempted to say that truly those whom the gods wished to destroy they first made crazy. But I remembered that Erap and his lawyers had been loony tunes long before that. Their tack merely showed they had become desperate, if not masochistic, after months of being out of power. The normal strategy for lawyers is to attack the weakest link on the other side, not the strongest. So long as Erap and his lawyers focused their attacks on Ms Macapagal, they kept their hopes alive. Once they trained their guns on Davide, they were dead. The two were respectively the weakest and strongest links in the chain.

Without Davide, the impeachment trial would never have become the most credible judicial—and political—exercise it turned out to be. Davide didn't just add another accent to the curious and dazzling variety of accents in the Senate hall turned courtroom, he added whole new accents to the meaning of the word, "judge." He added something normally lacking in judicial proceedings in this country, which was judiciousness.

At the very least, he displayed a superiority of intelligence, particularly in points of law. He showed an appreciation of nuances when he spoke, and he used legal terms with such earnestness—clearly from a desire to enlighten and educate and not from a need to impress or obfuscate—that he had the entire population talking like him before the end of the day. The vocabulary he bequeathed to the nation found their way into sitcoms, which is as ironclad a proof of something entering popular consciousness as you can find these days.

But far more than that, he led by example. He was in the Senate earlier than anybody else, he did his homework more than anybody else, he spoke with more conviction than anybody else. The RM Award would say he has lived by the principle that "administering justice is a sacramental task," and nowhere did he show that more than at the impeachment trial. He was above reproach, a fact demonstrated forcefully by the defense panel, some of whose members had been his teachers once, bowing down to the wisdom of his judgment and not just to the majesty of his position. The student had become teacher, the child had turned father to the man. It was the integrity Davide showed at that impeachment trial that gave Edsa II its moral anchor. Had a judge shown any less, Erap would still be President. Or he could say more convincingly that he was shoved out of Malacañang by a power grab.

I said at the time that if presidential elections were held there and then, I had no doubt Davide would win hands down. Which would have been a tremendous boon to the nation. Finally, we had someone who was honest and decent who had also become immensely popular. Popoy Lagman's group clearly saw that point, too, though they did not see the true depth of Davide's honesty and decency. They wanted a caretaker government—"Resign All" was their call—to be run by Davide, forgetting or ignoring the fact that Davide himself would have been the first to refuse it. The judge who stuck by the rule of law from the start would stick by the rule of law to the end. The judge who harbored no self-interest from the start would harbor no self-interest in the end.

But that doesn't stop me from imagining what might have happened if something like that had happened. If anyone could have brought Erap's trial to a successful conclusion—indeed if anyone could have pushed it along to begin with—it would have been Davide. No one could accuse him of doing so for personal reasons. If anyone could have cleansed government of its dregs and brought an honest work ethic to public service, it would have been Davide. There is no better way to impart a lesson than by example. And if anyone could have given the people of this country hope, enough for them to not want to leave it in droves, it would have been Davide. He would have given them to see the embodiment of the best that they could be.

That, not quite incidentally, is how I have measured the President who came after Erap. And I found her wanting. But, Jesus, could we have thought that a year after bringing down a tyranny, we'd see everyone desperately campaigning for elections two years away, with all the opportunism and backstabbing it requires?

The Bible, to the teachings of which Davide is just as profoundly dedicated (he makes it a point to read it every day to begin the day), says that the humble shall be exalted and the exalted humbled. That is one of Christ's parables in the New Testament. We can thank the Ramon Magsaysay Awards at least for making the first come true, for exalting the humble, for according a Filipino who served his nation heroically and quietly, without taint of ambition and without tinge of regret, his place among peers.

Now, if we could only do the other thing, which is to humble the exalted, or expunge the hambugs. Even Christ flew off the handle when he saw the temple filled with sellers of wares.

* * *

Comments to [illegible]

Senate minority offered presidency to Cayetano, Flavier

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LAST Monday evening, July 29, should go down in the annals of the Philippine Congress as one of the weirdest ever. The minority senators had sandwiches and fast-food fare for dinner in the session hall, while Senate President Franklin Drilon and Majority Leader Loren Legarda kept a watchful eye on them, he from the mini lounge right next to the dais and she from her desk. The two top Senate officials sought to prevent a repeat of June 3, when the minority began rump sessions that lasted for four days.

The absence of Sen. Robert Barbers, who was attending the birthday celebration of his aging father in Surigao, encouraged the minority to try to force a vote on the question of the rump sessions' legitimacy. The majority knew the minority's intentions, and to make matters even more complicated, its new recruit, Sen. Robert Jaworski, had signified his intention to vote with the opposition on that issue, because two of his bills were approved during those sessions.

Mercifully, Jawo later joined the majority caucus in Drilon's office, thus ensuring that no repetition of June 3 would take place. This enabled the Senate president to leave the session hall and preside over the majority caucus.

* * *

The night stretched for the senators, including Blas Ople who was to be sworn in as foreign secretary in Malacañang the next day. For a while there seemed no end to the madness, but finally, at close to 2 a.m. of July 30, a typically Filipino compromise was reached. Under this arrangement, three of the bills passed during the rump sessions would be considered passed, while the fourth one, on absentee voting, would be returned to the floor for further debates. In return, the minority recognized the "primacy and authority" of the administration coalition over administrative matters, thus effectively canceling the various internal memos passed by the minority from June 3-7. The questions about the validity of the rump session were left unanswered.

What few people know was that the 11 minority senators offered the Senate presidency to two administration senators some time during that long night. First, Senators Ping Lacson and Tessie Oreta went up to Sen. Rene Cayetano and told him to get one more vote from his group "and we will deliver our 11 votes to you." It will be December in July, Oreta joked, in reference to the standing agreement between Cayetano and Drilon, which calls for Drilon to relinquish the Senate presidency in favor of Cayetano at the end of the year. The story going around is that Cayetano's upper lip quivered at the offer, but after consulting with the President's political adviser, Gabby Claudio, he decided to treat the offer as a joke. But before the evening was over, the story says, Sen. Gregorio Honasan went up to Sen. Juan Flavier to make the same offer saying, *"Sa iyo na lang. Ayaw ni* Cayetano." But Flavier also said no.

* * *

On Tuesday, Aug. 6, the militant Kilosbayan and its sister organization, Bantay Katarungan, will hold a benefit concert at 7:30 p.m. at the RCBC Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in Makati City, titled "Sa Mahal kong Bayan," featuring light classical music, including opera pieces, Broadway hits and *kundiman.* The concert will feature German-trained Philippine soprano Andion Fernandez, tenor Nolyn Cabahug, baritone Nomer Son and pianist Ma. Lourdes Gregorio. Highlighting the evening will be the Recognition Awards for the "new heroes of our time": nurse Ediborah Yap and American missionary Martin Burnham and his wife Gracia. Also to be honored as the "model public servant of the year" is public elementary school teacher Marilyn Bien-Bongiad of Naga.

The awards will be given away by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Martin's sister, Cheryl Burnham Spicer, has arrived from Kansas to receive the awards for the Burnhams (she is staying here for a couple of years to serve our mountain tribal people). Gracia Burnham, who, along with her mother-in-law and her two children, was honored by President George W. Bush at the White House recently, will deliver a message of thanks via videotape, while Jody Crain, head of the New Tribes Mission, the Burnhams' community here, will also be on hand.

* * *

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga, Kilosbayan president, and former Solicitor General Sedfrey Ordoñez, who is Bantay Katarungan chair, said the benefit concert aims to raise P5 million to make up for the loss of $100,000 yearly that its major donor, Ford Foundation, has been giving to help modernize and improve our justice system. Ford Foundation is phasing out its operations in the Philippines next year and moving out. We are grateful to Ford Foundation, said Salonga, "but we realize that improving our system of justice to benefit the poor and the weak, with the help of selected students from the best law schools in the country, is the main responsibility of our own people."

The concert will serve a just cause, raising funds for Bantay Katarungan, in addition to offering a delightful repertoire of classical, Broadway and Philippine music. Former Public Works Secretary Jose "Ping" de Jesus is chair of the benefit concert committee who will be tapping sponsors and donors. I can't think of a lovelier way to spend an evening. For inquiries, call Kilosbayan House, Tel. Nos. 534-5888, 533-6061 and 534-5889.

'Oplan Tali!' for Family Planning Day

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TODAY is National Family Planning Day. In observance of the occasion, Marikina City is hosting "Oplan Tali!" It's the first of its kind among the annual celebrations of Family Planning Day, being a large-scale effort involving both national agencies and a local government unit in a massive recruitment drive for family planning acceptors.

"Oplan Tali!" actually began last Monday when mobile teams of local family planning providers in Marikina began recruiting men and women who might want to avail themselves of free medical services for vasectomy and tubal ligation. Those who signed up and underwent screening for these permanent family planning methods went through the procedures the next day, while acceptors who signed up Tuesday underwent the procedures yesterday. Today, the last batch of men and women acceptors will undergo vasectomy and tubal ligation at the Marikina Riverbanks Activity Center. Medical personnel from the City Health Office, the Sto. Niño Health Center and Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Medical Center of Marikina City, FriendlyCare Foundation clinics, Well-Family Midwife Clinics and EngenderHealth will be on hand to perform the procedures, while DKT International, Organon, Schwarz-Pharma, Pascual Laboratories-Market Link, and Pharmacia will feature their products.

Other reproductive health and family planning advocates will be on hand to provide information, counseling and services on other modern methods of family planning, including the condom, oral contraceptive pills, IUD and injectables.

The activity is open to residents not only of Marikina, but also of other cities and towns in Metro Manila and its environs.

* * *

IT promises to be a lively, fun-filled event. Participants will assemble at 8 a.m. at the Marikina City Hall and proceed in a motorcade to the Riverbanks. There, while acceptors are undergoing tubal ligation and vasectomy, or being counseled on temporary methods, a program will be held featuring entertainment numbers, celebrity guests, contests, games and video shows, including the "FP Quiz Show" and the "Family FP Singing Contest." Special guests will be Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando and USAID mission director Michael Yates. Officials from the Department of Health and nearby cities and towns will grace the program.

This year's theme for National Family Planning Day is "Maliit na Pamilya. Masaya. Maginhawa." I find it entirely in keeping with the theme that its centerpiece celebration is such a cheery, unabashed, unapologetic affair, a day celebrating the wonderful gift of choice, parenthood and family.

* * *

ELSEWHERE, other celebrations of National Family Planning Day may be less "show biz" than the one in Marikina, but they are no less meaningful or enriching.

The Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP) and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) are jointly sponsoring a roundtable discussion on "Medical, Legal and Religious Barriers to Family Planning" at the E. Rod Café at the Golden building, 1465 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Through free-wheeling discussions of such issues, the organizers hope "to identify policy issues which can be addressed through policy or programmatic changes in the implementation of family planning and reproductive health programs."

The Reproductive Health Advocacy Network (RHAN), a network of 23 non-government organizations and some 350 community women, will troop to the DOH this morning to dramatize its "concern over the government's unclear and ambiguous implementation of family planning policies and programs, including the ban on Levonorgestrel 750 mcg or Postinor, an emergency contraceptive pill."

RHAN, represented by counsel from Womenlead Foundation Inc., has filed a petition to review and reopen the DOH/BFAD ban on Postinor, raising, among other issues, the lack of proper notice (due process) to the reproductive health and women's NGO community, thereby excluding them from the deliberations that led to the imposition of the ban.

* * *

STILL on family planning, my personal choice for "Man of the Year" is Dr. Jondi Flavier, who brightened up the front page of last Sunday's INQUIRER with his account of how and why he underwent a non-surgical vasectomy.

It is rare enough to encounter in real life men who have had a vasectomy and are willing to admit to it in private, much less write about it and have the account, and his picture, published on the front page of the country's leading newspaper.

Reading Jondi's account, I recalled the creators of a TV public information campaign telling me they had a hard time finding any man willing to admit on camera that he had had a vasectomy. To lend credibility to the campaign, the creators chose to use doctors who were themselves users of a particular FP method to provide information on it. They had no problems recruiting endorsers for all the methods, except vasectomy. Finally, they managed to convince one doctor to go on camera and say, "According to studies, vasectomy is a safe and effective method of family planning." Not a direct personal endorsement, but given male leeriness about the method, a good enough compromise.

As Jondi points out: "Family planning and responsible parenthood have too long been a burden imposed on women. I believe that more men should become partners in reproductive health...(and my non-scalpel vasectomy) has made me feel better about myself."

Faces found and unfound

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

JOY among the Mangyans. I first met Jocelyn "Joy" Quiaoit-Bae more than 10 years ago, when I went to Mindoro Oriental to learn more about the Alangan Mangyans of Paitan and write their story. Joy was there, working with the Holy Spirit Sisters in organizing the Mangyans and doing her graduate research in anthropology.

I saw the place where she lived, a tiny decrepit house on a hill on the edge of the wilderness. Joy was out when we dropped by, because she was visiting one of the Mangyan communities. I thought, how could a bright, young academic choose to live here alone with very little? That was the second time she worked there and I did not think she would stay on and decide to make Mindoro her home and continue to serve the Mangyans.

Two weeks ago Joy, 39, now a wife and mother of two children, became the first recipient of The Lawrence Trust Fund for Volunteer Efforts Recognition Award. A project development officer of the Mindoro diocese's Mangyan Missions, Joy was honored in a simple ceremony held at the Kaisa-Angelo King [illegible] [illegible] Center in Intramuros.

Joy first worked among the Mangyans in 1983 when she joined the Ateneo-based Jesuit Volunteers Philippines (JVP) as a community worker. She belonged to Batch 4.

In the beginning, Joy conducted functional literacy education classes in villages. Her involvement later expanded to helping the Mangyans have access to basic social services like health and education. She also helped them pursue their claims to their ancestral domain, strengthen their organizations and launch sustainable livelihood programs.

Joy could have decided to spend only a few years there and gone back to an easier life in Mindanao where her family lives comfortably, but she chose to stay among the Mangyans. Her parents, I was told, insisted that she go home with them when they first came to visit many years ago, but had a change of heart after they came again and saw how the Mangyans loved their daughter.

The Lawrence Trust Fund trustees said the award honors individuals like Joy "whose life and work are characterized by selfless service and volunteerism. This is the same ideal of Tsinoy social worker Lawrence Dy Ong."

The Trust Fund and award is named after Ong who was called "The Great Volunteer" and who died of liver cancer on July 13, 2001. He was honored posthumously with the Dr. Jose Rizal Awards for Excellence (community service category). President Macapagal-Arroyo handed the trophy to his family. The Jesuit-run Xavier School, his high school alma mater, honored Ong with the [illegible] Lux Award, one of the highest honors the school gives, as a tribute to his consistent example of living out a preferential option for the poor until the last days of his life.

The Lawrence Trust Fund for Volunteer Efforts Recognition is granted to help ease the financial burden of the awardees and to celebrate their little-known efforts and legacy. It encourages the culture of volunteerism. It also documents the story of volunteers who through their personal sacrifice, "reach out to others, building their dreams into great movements that help people across the country. It also pays homage to the individuals who volunteer their time, energy and talent to make a difference in the lives of others."

The Lawrence trustees are the Ong family, Xavier School Batch 1974, Kaisa Para Sa Kaunlaran, Jesuit Volunteers Philippines, Philippine Association for Volunteer Efforts and Bataan Center for Innovative Science and Technology Inc.

Still unfound. Last Saturday, six families met to remember a painful event that happened 25 years ago. There was no immediate, urgent reason to meet, the reason was simply to celebrate the lives of loved ones who had disappeared without a trace. And in order to feel once more and to feel if...

In the last week of July and the first half of August 1977, the fifth year of martial rule, eight young men and women—students, teachers and young professionals—disappeared. They all belonged to a cell of activists working in Southern Tagalog.

A week or so after their disappearance, the bruised bodies of Virgilio Silva and Salvador Panganiban were found in a ravine in Tagaytay. A month later, the body of Modesto Sison was found in a shallow grave in Lucena. Jessica Sales, Ramon Jasul, Rizalina Ilagan, Gerardo Faustino and Cristina Catalla were never found. Their families begged, pleaded, cried out for their loved ones to be produced by whoever knew where they were being kept. They went to the office of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fabian Ver and Philippine Constabulary chief Fidel Ramos. If our loved ones had committed crimes, they said, charge them in court, prove their guilt. But where are they?

The answer came. Was it an act of cruelty, was it an act of mercy for the defense department to inform the missing persons' next of kin through a letter that their loved ones had been killed in an encounter between the AFP and the communist New People's Army in Mauban, Quezon, on Aug. 17, 1977—a week before they actually disappeared?

Playwright Bonifacio P. Ilagan, brother of Rizalina, explained, on behalf of the families: "Why do we need to meet now? We have not actually spelled this out—except for the reason that the lives of our martyred beloved be celebrated among kith and kin, and maybe feel in our hearts if that could be enough for a closure on our collective grief. Or for a reopening of a struggle."

Gloomy days

YOUNG BLOOD

Roel Reales

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE TRAFFIC light seems to stay red forever, and I begin to wish the jeepney can fly. I've been stuck here for half an hour now, and trying hard to keep myself from getting off and taking the long walk home instead. The seemingly endless line of vehicles now start to blare varying decibels of irritation in the air, beating the highest pitch of the [illegible] love song "Aray!" that was playing on the jeepney's stereo system.

This is supposed to be the year 2002, which had been visualized by moviemakers several years ago to feature flying cars. But with clogged roads and overflowing drainage systems, the streets resemble "Waterworld" instead.

The gloomy skies above shelter the shadows that were rushing, ignoring the bony hands begging for a peso or two on the overpass which has a faded sign that reads: "Angat Pinoy 2000." On the other side of the avenue lies an old woman sleeping beside overflowing garbage cans. A civilized society is supposed to draw a sharp line between humans and garbage, but that's no longer true anymore.

The jeepney I'm riding in now performs its honking concerto, with the driver supplying the vocals by cursing the infernal traffic. His passengers manage to stay calm, their restless eyes rolling, trying to avoid staring at each other. The stout guy in front of me is sweating hard, so hard that I surmise that he must be badly in need of Diatabs or stricken with guilt after seeing the sign that says, "God Knows Judas Not Pay."

The frail lady seated next to him looks exasperated and keeps mumbling words that only she can hear. I suppose she's losing the challenge to see a poem lovely as a tree in the grimy landscape outside, a barren land filled with mounds of garbage and dilapidated shanties. The women wearing office uniforms and seated beside me start talking about quitting their job, because all it pays is a monthly salary that can feed only a canary.

There may be many gloomy days like this but they will surely pass. Optimistic people will see the silver lining in the dark clouds. Children will soon stop chanting, "Rain, rain, go away," and begin to frolic freely in the sun again. But not me. And it is not because I'm not a child anymore, but because I have nothing to look forward to on sunny days and the days, weeks and years thereafter.

I know there will always be impoverished families everywhere, and that I will still be chased by malnourished children on the streets, begging for money to buy food. I know that there will still be countless bums commuting in jeepneys, still hopeful about finishing ahead in the rat race despite the country's economic nosedive. I know that there will still be underpaid laborers in picket lines, and guards who will disperse them with nightsticks and tear gas. I know that there will still be tuition increases and that basic commodities won't get cheaper. I know that there will still be oil-price hikes and people who cannot afford the jeepney fare.

I know that there will still be rainy days like this when streets turn into rivers, and rivers into oceans. I know that there will still be sad passengers inside jeepneys, and some will close their eyes, trying to forget a lot of things. And, heaven help me, I will be one of them. For I'm one of those people who desperately hang on to the last thread of sanity, and I still have a lot more things to forget today and tomorrow.

I wanted to forget that I'll have to force myself to rise tomorrow at 7:30, sit like an automaton in front of a computer monitor, watch a noon-time TV show at the canteen and eat lunch while envying those people who take home five, six and seven-digit prizes given away by those game shows.

I wanted to forget that I'm living a life that is very far removed from my grand ambitions, and that life doesn't seem to offer many options. And I wanted to believe that I'm just having a nightmare.

I wanted to forget that there will still be another gloomy day like this, when depressing fragments of reality unfold before my eyes. I wanted to forget that there will still be clogged roads and red traffic lights glowing everywhere.

I've been stuck here for half an hour now. I wish this jeepney can fly.

Roel Reales, 22, earned his BS in Computer Science degree at the University of the Philippines Cebu College. He is employed in a telecommunications software company.

Depression

Maria A. Jose

IT is perhaps the most deadly of diseases that could possibly infect anybody. It slowly eats you up even before you realize you are suffering from it.

Its symptoms are so common that you don't even know that they are symptoms at all. It begins with getting easily pissed, distracted or lonely for no good reason. As time passes, these bouts of anger, loneliness or sadness become more frequent and common that you take them as a normal everyday occurrence. You nitpick about everything and you often feel that nobody loves, likes you or cares for you. Then, you scold yourself for being too self-centered or too pathetic. You feel ashamed and keep it to yourself.

Then, insomnia and loss (or, in my case, increase of appetite) set in. And you blame them on your deadlines and exams. In my case, the fact that my lack of sleep does not show since I never develop eye bags doesn't help a bit.

Finally, you reach the peak of depression by being suicidal. You often think of slashing your wrist, using that big knife in the kitchen, or maybe jumping off that ledge. Thinking of the best suicide scenario becomes a hobby, an obsession even.

But even this doesn't convince you that you are indeed sick. You just blame it on boredom. You [illegible] sometimes, but most of the time you are ashamed of it. So you keep it to yourself and you become more miserable.

Sometimes you hope or pray (if you are into that) that people will hear your silent cries but they do not. You feel helpless and pathetic again.

It's a vicious emotional roller-coaster. And you don't feel like talking about it because you know—better yet, you are certain— that people will dismiss you as weird or simply laugh at you. So you keep it to yourself and hope that it will go away in due time.

But it does not. It keeps eating you up. And sooner or later, it will kill you either by driving you to suicide or by making you sick.

Indeed, depression is the worst illness. There are no drugs, no sure-fire medication. It's as lethal as—maybe even more lethal than—cancer or AIDS.

Maria A. Jose, 20, is a BS Environmental Science senior at the Ateneo de Manila University

A risky numbers game

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo claimed that most of civil society still support her, and it is only the "communists" who do not.

Former President Estrada got more than 12 million votes, yet he was ousted by not even a tenth of that number.

The"communists" Ms Mcapagal was referring to included Bayan Muna, which was able to send three party-list representatives to Congress. There were also some groups among the Edsa II forces that were vocal from the very beginning in expressing their disapproval of Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency. And then there were the Estrada supporters who launched the failed Edsa III insurrection and elected four opposition senators in 2001.

Arguing with numbers always entails the risk of being refuted with a greater number. I wonder how many in civil society actually voted for Ms Macapagal in 1998. In fact none of them voted for her for president.

If those who are not supporting Ms Macapagal are "communists," then they must number in the millions now.

Lenin used to boast that he could turn the world upside down with no more than 12 dedicated communist revolutionaries. I shudder at the thought of what millions of communists can do to the Philippines.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ, 420 Gov. A. Pascual, San Jose, Navotas, Manila

A modest relationship with GMA

AMANDO Doronila's column last July 26, "Macapagal's new cronyism," was long on errors and short on truth. He continues to hallucinate. Did he ever see me gloating? Did he hear me "flaunt self-claimed influence on the President"? I dare him to produce proof.

I have never claimed influence on the President. I could not be happier with my modest personal and professional relationship with the President and I would not dream of exerting influence on her.

In all my public statements, I was candid enough to admit that I went to the United States to talk to Sen. Blas Ople on my own initiative and not as an emissary of the President. For the record, I did not offer the Department of Foreign Affairs post to the senator; only the President has that prerogative. Our conversation centered largely on the status of our foreign affairs and on how fruitful our relations with the United States, the only remaining superpower in the world, can be, if we play our cards right.

I have never claimed credit for the decision of Ople to accept the DFA post.

By the way, Rep. Willie Villarama had absolutely nothing to do with "l'affaire Ople." If Doronila were more discerning, he would have understood from Villarama's statement that he, too, was acting on his own.

It is possible that some people were given specific tasks to help solve the Senate impasse. I know nothing about this.

What I know is that Sen. Ramon Revilla and former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu as well as Mr. and Ms Peping Cojuangco should be credited for convincing Sen. Robert Jaworski to put "family and country" over and above the interests of his partymates.

Senate President Franklin Drilon must have made a significant contribution, but I know that he was not present in the family meetings of the Revillas, Jaworskis and Cojuangcos. The crucial interventions were made by Senator Revilla and Espiritu, both members of Jaworski's family.

Occasionally, the President gives me specific tasks and I try to do them to the best of my ability. I certainly never claimed to have had a role in the transfer of Jaworski to the administration camp.

As for First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, he is busy attending to his pro bono work and civic projects to attend to Ronnie Puno and Jimmy Policarpio.

For a journalist, truth is important. Facts are sacred. Doronila, having played fast and loose with the facts, has no business calling himself a journalist, much less a pundit. But he certainly qualifies as a gossip columnist.

—DANTE A. ANG, Strategic Publishing Co. Inc., 371 A. Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila

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Life, death and numbers

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IN 1982 the American paleontologist and writer Stephen Jay Gould was diagnosed with a rare cancer called abdominal mesothelioma. Being a scientist, he waded into the medical literature to find out more about the disease. He describes what he found: "The literature couldn't have been more brutally clear: mesothelioma is incurable, with a median mortality of only eight months after discovery."

Gould was initially stunned, but began to think some more, realizing that a median mortality of eight months meant that half of the patients diagnosed with mesothelioma would die before eight months. A pessimist would focus, and fret, about being part of that 50 percent. But Gould wondered, why couldn't he be part of the 50 percent who would live beyond eight months?

Gould looked for more hope in the numbers. In statistics, a median only divides a population into half. The half that lives beyond eight months will not necessarily die out within another eight months. Gould noticed, in fact, that if you plotted out survival rates for mesothelioma, the curve had what statisticians call a "thin tail"—meaning there will be survivors who can just go on and on and on. They'd die too eventually, but not necessarily within a few months, or even years.

Eventually, Gould wrote an entertaining essay, "The median is not the message," describing his adventures with the numbers. Statistics, he points out, refer to populations being studied under a prescribed set of circumstances. The rates he saw for mesothelioma were based on patients who went through conventional treatment. He decided he would go for an experimental treatment. He knew there were risks involved, but he was willing to play with possibilities, with chance.

Statistics can be intimidating but we need to learn to understand those numbers. We are bombarded daily by results of all kinds of polls and surveys but many are deceptive and inaccurate.

The numbers from science and medicine tend to be more complicated. If the findings seem to have little to do with our lives then we just shrug our shoulders and forget about it. In other cases though, when we feel vulnerable or affected by the research findings, we tend to be intimidated.

We need to learn from Gould. When he was diagnosed with cancer, he remembered the Old Testament passage and Isaiah's injunction to Hezekiah: "Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live." But rather than taking to the deathbed, he decided: "I would have time to think, to plan, and to fight."

To think, to plan, to fight. It doesn't have to be cancer. Recently there was furor over a study in the United States looking at the use of hormonal replacement therapy (HRT) for menopausal women. The study had to be stopped because researchers found that women on a particular form of HRT had a higher chance of breast cancer and heart problems. Gynecologists' phones rang furiously as women called in, asking if they should stop HRT.

What the study actually found out was that there were increased risks for women taking specific types of hormonal preparations. What about the risks for certain diseases? We need to translate the statistical gobbledygook: what scientists found was that if 10,000 women took the drugs for a year and 10,000 did not, among the women who were on the HRT being studied, there would be eight more cases of invasive breast cancer, seven more heart attacks, eight more strokes and 18 more with blood clots.

Are the risks high? Well they were high enough for scientists to end the study, but not to ask all women to stop HRT. It won't be easy but women are being asked to weigh, together with their doctors, HRT's benefits (fewer cases of osteoporosis, less discomfort with menopause) and the risks. Some women will feel quite comfortable going off completely from the treatment; others may end up extremely distressed.

Mass media tend to fuel anxieties. A few weeks back when I wrote an article about "circumstitions" or "superstitions" surrounding circumcision, pointing out that most studies showed there was no medical advantage to male circumcision, people immediately sent me news articles featuring a study in Spain that supposedly found a higher risk for cervical cancer among women who had sex with uncircumcised men.

The Spanish study was a "meta-analysis," a type of research that reviews previous studies, pooling statistics together. The study has been criticized as comparing research that could not be compared in the first place. Moreover, the meta-analysis mainly relied on comparing the numbers of HPV found on the penis of uncircumcised and circumcised males, HPV being Human Papilloma Virus, the virus associated with cervical cancer.

The meta-analysis did find that when the numbers were pooled together, uncircumcised males had more HPV than circumcised males. But even if this is the case, we have to remember that there are different co-factors involved in cervical cancer, a major one being the woman's use of tobacco. How often does the mass media pick up on this connection between smoking and cervical cancer? Almost never. It's not sensational enough—besides you might lose advertising revenue from cigarette companies.

It's also interesting that the meta-analysis included one study conducted in the Philippines. But, woe to the Pinoy and Pinay, that study found circumcised males actually had more HPV than uncircumcised ones.

Should Filipinas now start avoiding circumcised males? It would do wonders for our population program, but no I'm not going to endorse that drastic action.

Life, death and numbers. Some of you may have wondered what happened to Gould, who was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 1982 and given a 50-50 chance of dying within eight months. He went on to write several more books and died only a few weeks ago, in May. In the end, it was lung cancer that got him.

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Thousands of illegals flee Malaysia

JOHOR BAHRU, Malaysia—Thousands of people, mostly from Indonesia and the Philippines, rushed to leave Malaysia on Wednesday, the day before a new law comes into force to allow whipping and prison terms for illegal workers.

People clutching bags of clothes and other personal belongings crowded several Malaysia ports trying to beat the deadline. Malaysian officials say they will begin enforcing the law from Thursday.

The government announced the new law in May, warning that illegal workers who did not leave by Aug. 1 face arrest, fines of up to 10,000 ringgit ($2,600), imprisonment for five years and flogging with a rattan cane.

More than 250,000 illegal immigrants, mostly from Indonesia, have left Malaysia in recent months. Thousands of others have swarmed ports and major exits in the past week. The government has offered amnesty for those with travel documents to prove they will be gone by mid-August.

Malaysia has traditionally accepted migrants, especially from Indonesia, India, Bangladesh and the Philippines, who work in oil palm plantations, construction sites, factories and as housemaids.

The government estimated earlier this year that Malaysia has 770,000 registered foreign workers—along with up to 600,000 foreigners who work illicitly. ***AP***

400 OFWs home this week

By Blanche S. Rivera

AROUND 400 overseas Filipino workers are expected to be back home this week as the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration finally secured P12 million in repatriation fund for the OFWs.

The returnees are mostly from the Middle East, 200 of whom are runaways from Kuwait, 143 from Saudi Arabia and 53 are those evading the tension in Pakistan.

The others—one each in Qatar, Hong Kong, Dubai and two from Oman—will also be repatriated by next week, said Owwa social welfare division chief Cesar Chavez.

Chavez said that the OFWs had been awaiting repatriation for weeks but that the Owwa did not have the money to take them back to the Philippines.

He said many of the OFWs have opted to go home because their employers had violated their contracts while others were victims of maltreatment.

Owwa administrator Wilhelm Soriano said he was also anticipating many Filipinos from Malaysia to come home as the new and more stringent immigration laws in Malaysia take effect today.

The Owwa said only 20,000 of more than 100,000 undocumented Filipinos in Malaysia have availed themselves of the amnesty from the Malaysian government, which ended yesterday.

Pimentel laments imports' 'free flow'

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES has virtually given up economic sovereignty by allowing the free flow of imported products into the country without putting in place protective measures to cushion their impact on local industries.

This was according to Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, who bewailed the inadequate protection extended to local manufacturers in the name of globalization.

Pimentel pointed out that the unhampered influx of imported competing goods and services, even down to the *sari-sari* store level, has raised fears that locally produced products and Filipino entrepreneurs will be swept out of the marketplace.

He said this will cause widespread unemployment and poverty, social tensions, breakdown of law and order and chaos.

"Our national government even appears to have ceded our national sovereignty, first to the dictates of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and now to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the World Trade Organization," Pimentel said.

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Conspiracy—Conspiracy in the statutory language exists when two or more persons come to an agreement concerning the commission of a felony and decide to commit it. Conspiracy need not be proved by direct evidence; it may be deduced from the mode and manner in which the offense was perpetrated. It is sufficient that the malefactor acted in concert to attain the same criminal objective. As a rule, the concurrence of wills, which is the essence of conspiracy, may be deduced from the evidence of facts and circumstances, which taken together, indicate that the parties cooperated and labored to the same end. It must be shown to exist clearly and convincingly as the commission of the offense itself. Inferable from the acts of accused-appellants themselves was a common design, a community of purpose to attain their evil objective. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, People v. Catian, G. R. No. 139693, January 24, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Asean forum moves to choke terror funds

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—The Asia-Pacific's foremost security umbrella group, the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), Wednesday outlined a blueprint designed to choke off funding for terrorists.

A raft of measures, including banking controls and a freeze on assets, was approved by delegates at a working dinner Tuesday, on the eve of the ARF annual meeting.

The 23-member foreign minister-level grouping includes the United States, Russia, China, Japan and the European Union, as well as the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations states.

"In the interests of global peace and security, the participants in the ARF are determined to stop the financing of terrorism," the statement said.

"We have therefore today endorsed a statement of our intention to work individually and in concert to prevent terrorists and their associates from accessing or using our financial systems and to stop abuse of informal banking networks."

The ARF statement is one of several counter-terrorism initiatives being released during a week of ministerial meetings in Brunei.

On Tuesday, Asean foreign ministers issued a declaration announcing a determination to "enhance counter-terrorism cooperation," and on Thursday they will sign a cooperation pact with the United States.

China has also announced plans for regular East Asia ministerial meetings to discuss terrorism and transnational crime.

The ARF statement Wednesday commits its 23 members to "freeze without delay the assets of terrorists and their associates and close their access to the international financial system."

Each member of ARF "should establish promptly" a financial intelligence unit to beef up information sharing.

It will also require members to "make public the lists of terrorists whose assets are subject to freezing and the amount of assets frozen," and urges anti-money-laundering bodies to promptly expand their mandates to include terrorist financing.

"We will ensure that our financial institutions and citizens comply with measures to combat the financing of terrorism and other financial crimes, and will assist them to do so." To ensure the message gets through, the ARF says it is committed to assisting countries "that need help in implementing necessary laws, regulations and policies to combat terrorist financing and money laundering." Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the ARF was encouraging its members to adhere to various UN conventions covering the financing of terrorism and developed nations would "provide some technical assistance if there is a request."

European Union foreign policy envoy Javier Solana described the statement as a good step toward preventing money "flowing to terrorist organizations and the question of money-laundering in relation to terrorism. ***AFP***

What is the Reward of the Saved?

We have always believed that the good guys go to heaven and the bad guys go to an ever-burning hellfire at the moment of death. Surely the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Enoch, Moses and the prophets like Elijah, Elisha, Samuel and King David are already in heaven, right? Why then did Jesus say "No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven..." (NIV, John 3:13)?

We know for certain that "whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (NIV, John 3:16) but where are we going to spend eternity? Is heaven really the reward of the saved? What does the Bible really teach?

Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection...they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years--*Revelation 20:6*. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth--*Revelation 5:10*. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations--*Revelation 2:26*. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth--*Matthew 5:5*.

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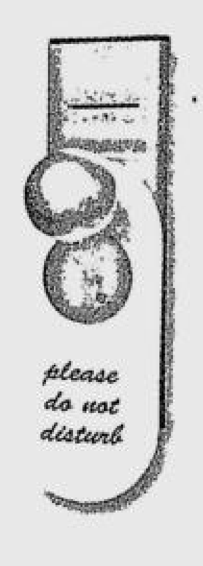

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

6 killed in Hebrew U bombing

JERUSALEM—An apparent suicide bomber detonated explosives in a crowded cafeteria at Hebrew University during lunchtime Wednesday, killing at least six people and wounding more than 70, Israeli authorities said.

The blast, in the university's Frank Sinatra International Student Center, came at a time classes were not in session. Students were taking exams, however, and the cafeteria was busy at the time of the explosion.

"There was a terrorist and he blew up," a witness, identified only as Shai, told Army Radio. "There is a lot of chaos, a lot of police. It's a mess, there's a lot of wounded."

A university employee, identified only as Ilana, told Israel Radio she was leaving the cafeteria when "I heard a very loud explosion. All the glass broke onto the floor and there was darkness and silence. Slowly people began to leave and other people were lying on the floor."

At least six people were killed, said Israeli government spokesman Danny Seaman. He said it wasn't immediately clear if a suicide bomber had carried out the attack, or if someone had placed the bomb in the cafeteria.

Israeli media put the number of wounded at more than 70, with several in critical condition.

The blast was at the university's Mt. Scopus campus, in the eastern part of the city, near the border between traditionally Arab east Jerusalem and west Jerusalem. The area is surrounded by Arab neighborhoods.

Wednesday's blast came a day after a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up at a fast-food stand in Jerusalem, killing himself and wounding several Israelis. That explosion was also near the dividing line between east and west Jerusalem. *AP*

2 linked to al-Qaida arrested in Karzai slay attempt

KABUL—Afghan security forces have arrested two men linked to al-Qaida who planned to assassinate President Hamid Karzai or senior ministers in a massive suicide car bomb attack, officials said Tuesday.

The plot was foiled when semtex explosive was found hidden in a Toyota Corolla which was involved in an accident in central Kabul Monday, said Amrullah Saleh, a director of the national directorate of security (NDS).

Saleh said the blast would have been large enough to kill people within a 500-meter radius and collapse two apartment blocks.

"Initial investigations show that they were thinking of assassinating high-ranking government officials or the president himself or hitting any foreign compound," he said.

"If they failed to hit those targets they wanted to kill as many people as possible to create chaos." The car was stopped close to the city's main Eid Gah mosque and several hundred meters from the defense ministry, Saleh added.

General Din Mohammad Jurat, director of public security at the interior ministry, said the suspects were "related to the opposition of Afghanistan" and linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

"It was a plot to kill Karzai or one of the key members of the government," Jurat said.

"We strongly believe that they were related to al-Qaida or Hezbi-Islami, which is right now an ally of al-Qaida," he added.

He also suggested the target could have been Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim, who survived an assassination bid by bombers in April. *AFP*

A MAN and his music—an Afghan musician takes a nap beside instruments at his shop in Kabul, July 31. Hundreds of musical bands charge around $50 per night to play traditional Afghan music. AFP

Powell meets with N. Korea minister

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei—US Secretary of State Colin Powell met informally Wednesday with North Korea's foreign minister during a conference of Pacific rim officials.

Powell told Paek Nam Sun that in any future discussions, the United States would want to "emphasize a variety of matters, including proliferation and mutual commitments made" under a 1994 agreement designed to curb North Korea's nuclear weapons program, US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said.

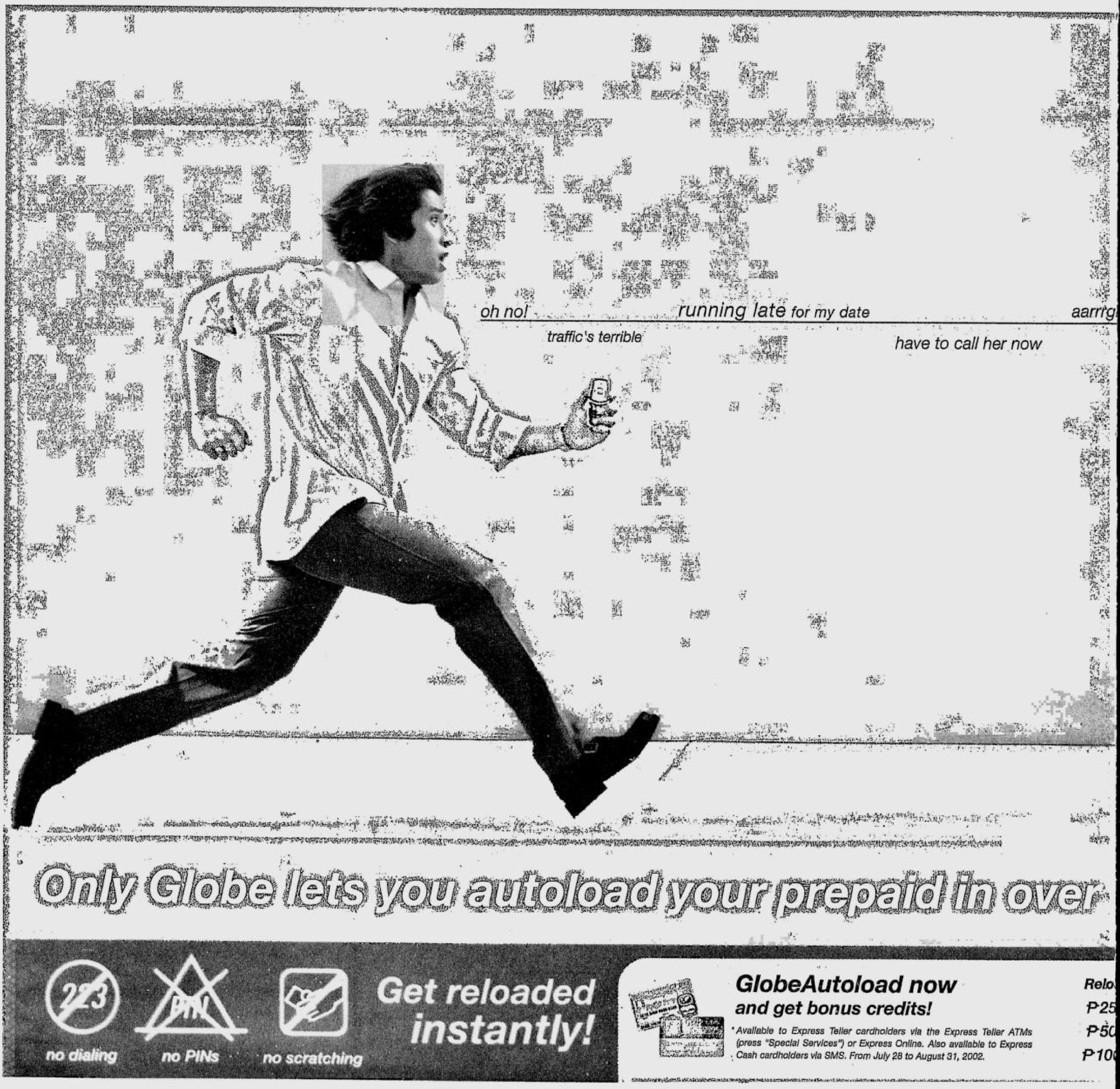
He said the United States would consider recent statements by North Korea in deciding whether to hold any follow-up meetings.

Paek said earlier Wednesday that he was "always ready" to meet with Powell, and was also willing to meet with South Korea.

"If they propose first, I will meet them," he said, referring to both countries.

Powell and Paek met for about 15 minutes at a delegates' lounge at the meeting site. Powell had sent word to the North Koreans that he was in the lounge and was available for a conversation.

The United States and North Korea are looking to restore high level contacts after several months of uneasy relations since US President George W. Bush referred to North Korea as part of "an axis of evil" that sponsors terrorism. *AP*



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Court says Britain anti-terror emergency powers 'so unlawful'

LONDON—A British tribunal Tuesday ruled that detention without trial here of nine foreign terror suspects under emergency laws imposed after the September 11 attacks breached European human rights regulations.

The Special Immigration Appeals Commission said Britain's new anti-terrorism powers, rushed through in December, were "not only discriminatory and so unlawful . . . but also disproportionate." In a ruling which dealt a blow to the government, commission chairman Andrew Collins said the laws were unfair because they allowed the detention of foreign nationals only, even though British citizens may have been equally involved with terrorist organizations.

It therefore breached the European Convention on Human Rights.

But the Home Office said that it would appeal against the tribunal's ruling, adding in a statement: "We are disappointed that the court has found that these powers discriminate against foreign nationals.

"The court's finding does not make the detention unlawful, and the individuals involved will not be released as a result of this judgement." Collins pointed out that the commission's ruling "may be of little if any assistance" to the nine detained men if the government passed legislation to deal with the discrimination aspect of the laws.

The tribunal also said that ministers had been correct to declare that there was a "public emergency threatening the life of the nation" in bringing in the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act. *AFP*

Pope gets rousing welcome in Mexico

MEXICO CITY—Pope John Paul II was given a rousing welcome Tuesday night in Mexico City, where tens of thousands cheered and chanted "the whole world loves you" as his popemobile crossed the megalopolis.

Chanting "Viva el Papa," ecstatic crowds waved white handkerchiefs as the head of the Roman Catholic Church made his way from the international airport to the Vatican envoy's residence, where he was to spend the night.

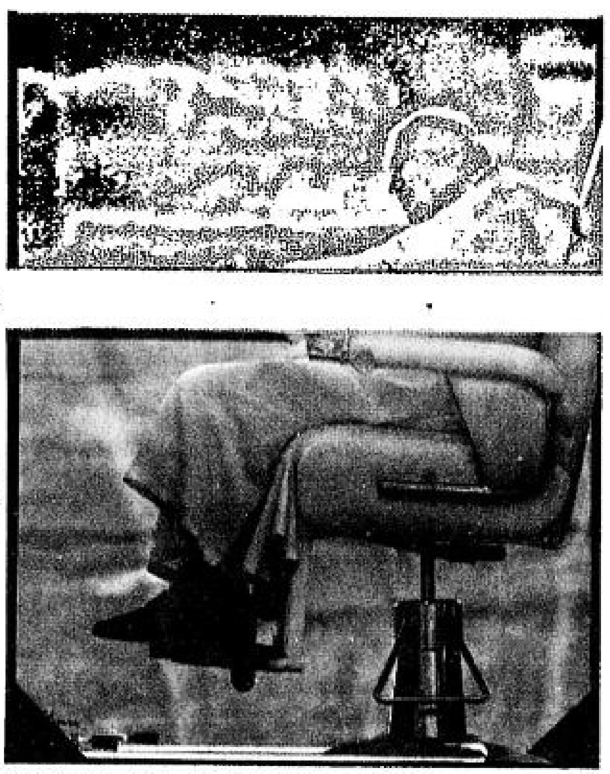
Police estimated the crowd at about 100,000. The pope flew in from Guatemala City to begin the final leg of a 10-day tour that started in Canada.

Mexican President Vicente Fox, a fervent Catholic, and 2,600 guests welcomed him after his Airbus A-320, baptized the "Messenger of Hope," taxied into an airport hangar where a brief ceremony was held.

The frail pontiff, who had walked up the stairs to the plane in Guatemala City, descended in a hydraulic lift before being wheeled to a podium in a small cart.

The highlight of his Mexico trip was to be the beatification Wednesday of 16th-century native Mexican Juan Diego, said to have had visions of a dark-skinned Virgin Mary in 1531.

Thousands of people had already staked out positions on Tuesday and planned to spend the night outside. *AFP*



POPE John Paul II is seated in the popemobile during closing ceremonies at the La Aurora Airport in Guatemala City July 30. AFP

Japan ignores ban, sells tons of whale meat

TOKYO—Japan put thousands of tons of whale meat on sale across the country Wednesday, and expected to raise billions of yen (millions of dollars) to help fund its controversial whale hunts that the government says are for research purposes.

Japan is one of the world's largest consumers of whale meat and despite a global ban on commercial whaling, kills hundreds of the mammals each year as part of its so-called research program. Profits from the sale of the meat is pumped back into the program.

The International Whaling Commission allows Japan a limited catch for scientific research. Critics of the program, including the governments of the United States, Britain and Australia, say the research hunt is merely a front for commercial whaling. Much of the meat ends up in restaurants. *AP*

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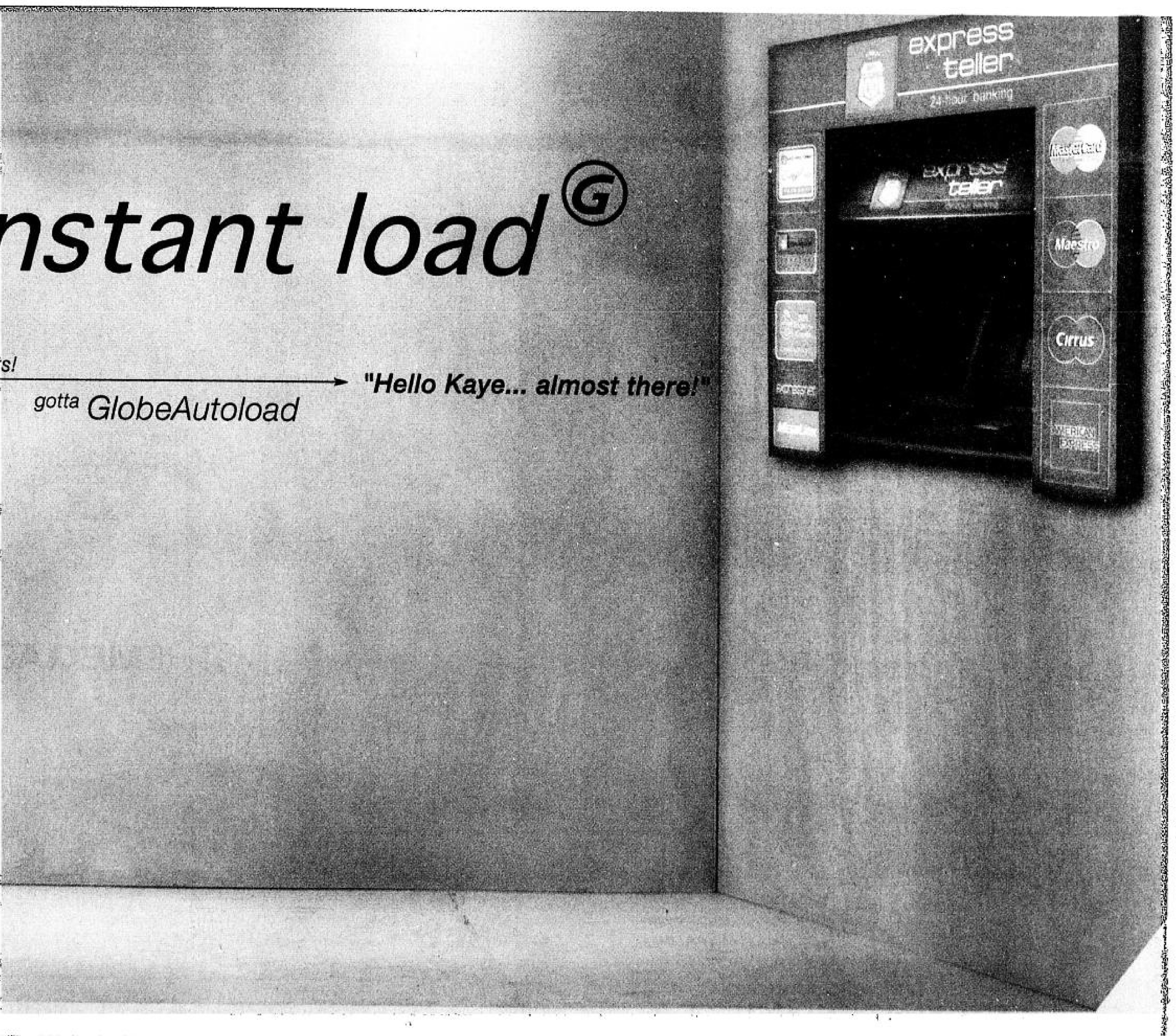

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Across the NATION

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Church-run hospital faces raps for neglect of stabbing victim

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The wife of a stabbing victim, who was allegedly left to die by the staff of the church-run Maria Reyna Hospital here, has filed a P1-million damage suit against the sickbay.

Gemma, 34, wife of Edito Magsalay, told the INQUIRER that all she wanted was to put an end to the hospital's practice of demanding down payment before treating a patient.

"I don't want to see more lives wasted because of such a cruel policy. I want my husband's case to be the last," Magsalay said in the vernacular.

Lawyer Edgardo Cabanlas helped Mrs. Magsalay in filing the case against the hospital run by the sisters of St. Paul de Charters.

In a separate interview, Cabanlas, who also sits in the city council, said aside from the damage suit, the MRH also faces charges of direct violation of the Hospital Licensure Act otherwise known as Republic Act 4226.

Both cases were filed before the regional trial court here.

Cabanlas said the hospital violated Section 17 of RA 4226 after its doctors refused to operate on Edito Magsalay for his family's failure to pay the P10,000 deposit required of them.

Mrs. Magsalay recalled that they brought her husband to the MRH's emergency room but aside from putting him on intravenous fluid, the doctors and the nurses did nothing.

She said she begged them to bring the patient to the operating room but that they were asking her to pay a deposit first.

"They did not even allow me to go out to find additional money for the payment of the dextrose and oxygen so that we could transfer (to another hospital)," Mrs. Magsalay said.

For the damage suit, Cabanlas said his client was banking on the Civil Code on Human Relations, which states that "every person must, in the exercise of his right and the performance of his duty, act with justice, give every one his due, and observe honesty and good faith; and every person who, contrary to law, willfully or negligently causes damage to another shall indemnify the latter for the same."

Also supporting the allegation against the MRH was Edito's death certificate issued by the government-owned Northern Mindanao Medical Center.

The document indicated that Edito's death was caused by the loss of blood.

"Edito suffered only abdominal laceration and...there were no internal organs hit which could have fatally killed him. It was loss of blood," Cabanlas said.

Cabanlas said another complainant has the same accusation against the MRH.

Sr. Cecilia Fos, MRH administrator, continued to refuse to issue statements. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New sex scandal rocks religious order in Cebu

By Lino Gilbert K. Parone Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Even before molestation charges against an Augustinian priest could die down, another priest from a different religious order is being accused of abusing altar boys.

A former altar boy came out in public this week claiming that a priest belonging to the Missioneros del Sagrado Corazon (MSC), Fr. Mercurio Montenegro, allegedly sexually abused him and "over 30 others" in a span of 10 years, from 1987 to 1997.

Montenegro, the former parish priest of the town of Cordova on Mactan Island, vehemently denied the accusation.

"I deny it," Father Montenegro told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Montenegro left the Cordova parish in 1997 and is now based in a Catholic parish in Texas. He returned to the country last week for a visit. He was in Cebu early this week but he is now back in his hometown in Marihatag, Surigao del Sur.

The priest challenged his accuser, now 29-year-old "Boy" (not his real name) to prove his allegations.

"I deny it," repeated Montenegro. Asked for additional comment, he said: "Nothing. This needs to be proven, these are mere allegations."

"Boy" claimed that he was allegedly forced by the priest into committing "very immoral acts" countless times in 1987 when he was a 14-year-old altar boy at the Cordova parish.

Montenegro confirmed he was assigned once to Cordova.

"Ninety-five? Aw, ninety-three to ninety-five," he said initially when asked what year he was assigned there.

"Mga eighties *pa 'to*, eighty-five *tingali 'to*...(It was in the eighties, I think it was eighty-five)," he later corrected himself.

Boy said he would file charges and won't accept any settlement. "We do not want any settlement, what we want is justice, and for the priest to be accountable for what he did to us," Boy said in Cebuano.

Asked what he wanted in return for exposing the priest, Boy said: "My life."

"I had to hide these things even to my parents for so long. I had to endure all in silence for fear of what he could do to me or to my family," Boy said.

Boy, a college dropout, had to find odd jobs to help the family. He believed his life would have been different "if he (Montenegro) did not abuse me."

Boy said he was looking for lawyers who would provide free legal assistance.

The MSC community said it would investigate. "We will look into this especially that this is a very serious matter," Fr. Reynaldo Maldo, MSC district superior in Cebu, told INQUIRER.

This is the second time that Cebu was rocked by a sexual scandal involving a Catholic priest belonging to a religious order.

On July 19, three former altar boys of the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño in Cebu City and another youngster wrote to Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal accusing former Basilica rector Fr. Apolinario "Jing" Mejorada of sexually abusing them from the 1998 to 1999.

Mejorada is an Augustinian priest. His superiors admitted he was involved in some "transgression" and paid P120,000 in settlement to four altar boys.

Dike in need of repair called 'ticking time bomb'

BOTOLAN, Zambales—Calling the Bucao Dike a "ticking time bomb," Mayor Rogelio Yap asked Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong to provide the town with at least P11.4 million for immediate repair of the anti-lahar structure.

"With more super typhoons coming, the Bucao Dike is likened to a ticking time bomb. It may explode any time during heavy rains and probably cause massive destruction in terms of lives and property," Yap told Datumanong in a letter.

Quoting reports from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Yap said to date, Mt. Pinatubo's pyroclastic field in Botolan still holds between 20 and 40 million cubic meters of lahar waiting to descend through the Bucao-Balin-Baquero River.

According to him, several eroded portions of the dike had not been repaired in the last five years even as lahar continued to pile up at almost the same height of the structure at the upstream portion.

He said rains in the last three weeks breached a 15-meter span of the dike downstream. A long and high sandbar at the mouth of the South China Sea forced the muddy streams to change direction, swamping Barangays Bangan and Capayawan.

He said lahar also overtopped the Bucao Bridge, the link of Zambales to nearby Pangasinan.

Strong lahar flows, he added, swept two Aeta boys and isolated eight Aeta villages in Botolan.

The boys, after tumbling and rolling along the river for two hours, were rescued.

"My poor people are becoming restive. Must people die first from the disaster before national leaders act on their pleas?" Yap said.

Yap also urged Datumanong to fortify the artificial canal at the volcano's crater-lake to prevent lahar from triggering flashfloods in Botolan, some 40 km west of the Mt. Pinatubo. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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ROUNDUP

Best in nutrition

TAGBILARAN CITY—The town of Inabanga in the second congressional district was judged as Bohol's best performing local government unit in the search for the Ten Outstanding Municipal Nutrition Committees (TOMNCs). The search was part of this year's celebration of July as nutrition month. Inabanga Mayor Josephine Socorro Jumamoy said the TOMNC feat was encouraging because it addresses the basic needs of her constituents. "It proves that while we are doing our best for the development and progress of the town, we have not subordinated the nutritional needs of our people," she said.

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Death from drugs

BACOLOD CITY—The death of a couple allegedly summarily executed by six unidentified men may have been drug-related, the police said. The bodies of Fermin Bahibag, 40, and his live-in partner, Maria Fe Togle, who both bore bullet wounds in the head, were dumped in separate secluded areas in Barangay Cansilayan, Murcia, and Barangay La Granja, La Carlota City, Monday morning. Several sachets of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) were recovered near their bodies. Murcia Mayor Esteban Coscolluela said the killings "could be either the handiwork of an anti-drug vigilante group or drug transactions that had gone sour."

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Ormoc cop killed

ORMOC CITY—A policeman who was on leave was shot dead on Monday by two unidentified gunmen just outside the Nadonholan cockpit here. The victim, PO3 Antonio Delfin, 39, married, of Naval, Biliran, was deployed to the Police Regional Office 6 in Iloilo City. He was assigned in this city prior to his transfer to PRO-6. Investigation showed that Delfin was talking to a friend when he was shot in the head three times by two gunmen in their mid-20s. The assailants fled on board a red motorcycle. Four spent bullets of .45 cal. pistol and a fragmented slug were recovered from the crime scene. *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cop officers disarmed

BAGUIO CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation in the Cordillera disarmed two Baguio police officers for their alleged involvement in robbery-extortion here recently. Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, city police director, said the NBI filed serious illegal detention and robbery with extortion charges against PO1 Archibald Diaz and PO1 Cesar Sawad, both warrant officers, on July 18. NBI agents arrested Diaz and Sawad after they received marked money on July 12 in exchange for the release of two women charged with estafa and illegal recruitment.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Baguio cop slain

BAGUIO CITY—A policeman was shot and killed by armed men believed to be NPA rebels outside his house in Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur on Friday morning. The victim, SPO3 Vic Jallorena, a member of the regional intelligence group, had been involved in campaigns against communist rebels for the past 20 years, police said.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Scion of political family shoots dead Davao resident

DAVAO CITY—A scion of the powerful Ampatuan clan in Maguindanao was accused of gunning to death a member of a prominent family inside a posh entertainment center here early Sunday.

Chief Insp. Leonardo Felonia, commander of the San Pedro Police Precinct, said Mohammad Bahnarin Ampatuan, 18, and a student of the University of Mindanao, was tagged as suspect in the killing of Carlo Asistido, a resident of Lopez Jaena Street here.

Ampatuan is the son of Mayor Datu Ampatuan of Mamasapano town in Maguindanao and the grandson of Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan.

The suspect was detained at the San Pedro Police Station.

Felonia said police filed murder charges before the city prosecutor's office against the suspect on Monday.

Police said Asistido was trying to pacify Ampatuan's group when it got into trouble with a group led by a certain Junjun Paglas inside The Venue.

Quoting witnesses' account Felonia said instead of heeding Asistido's plea, Ampatuan grabbed a gun from one of his bodyguards and shot the victim.

Asistido, a grandson of former city treasurer Maximino Asistido, was hit in the armpit. He was declared dead on arrival at the San Pedro Hospital.

A fuming Mayor Rodrigo Duterte issued a shoot to kill order against bodyguards of prominent families from out of Davao City if they defy his order for them not to bring in their firearms.

"Don't be defiant because I have orders to shoot you. *Maniwala na lang kayo para walang sakit ng ulo,*" Duterte said.

The mayor's order against armed bodyguards came about after armed men, allegedly employed by the Ampatuan family, trooped to the police station.

It was later discovered that they were soldiers. *Anthony Allada, Ayan Mellejor and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

5 injured in grenade explosion

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Five persons were injured, including an infant, in separate incidents in Maguindanao and Sarangani provinces.

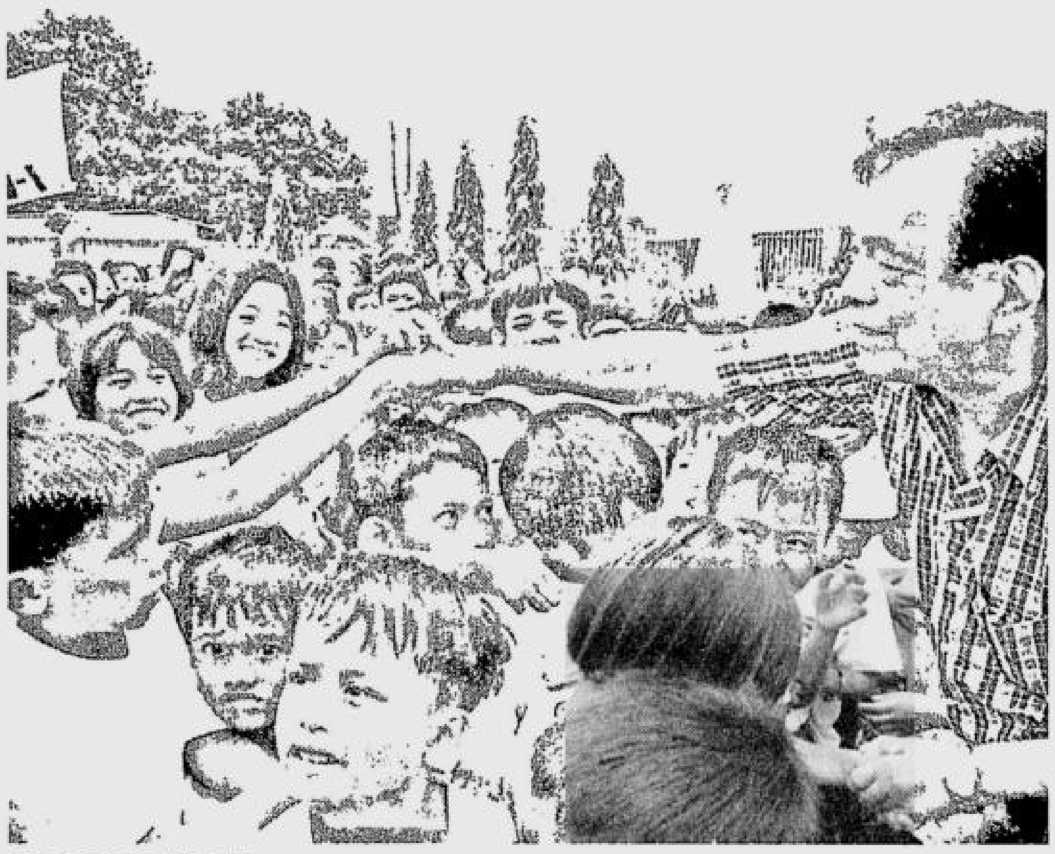
In Malapatan, Sarangani, suspected New People's Army rebels on Sunday afternoon waylaid two residents of Barangay Kinam, killing one of them.

The slain victim was identified as Moring Tanggan, 17, and a resident of Sitio Taluyan.

Soldiers encountered the rebels, which numbered about 30.

Col. Nestor Ochoa, of the 601st Army Brigade Task Group Gensan, told the INQUIRER that there was no casualty from the government's side.

In Maguindanao, a grenade explosion inside a house in Datu Odin Sinsuat town on Sunday injured four people, including an infant. *Aquiles Zonio and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



PRESSING FLESH JESS YUZON

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel greets pupils of the Tinang Elementary School in Concepcion, Tarlac during a visit to inaugurate five classrooms that he helped build through pork barrel funds.

Cops brace for rescue of bandits

DAVAO CITY—Faizal Marohombsar's claim that he was consolidating his forces in the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang could be true after all.

Supt. Samuel Navaja, Davao del Sur police director, said they were on a heightened alert after intelligence reports indicated that Faizal and his followers were planning to rescue at least 17 of their colleagues who have been detained in Digos City.

Navaja did not elaborate on the report, but added there were indications that Marohombsar has been hiding in Malita town.

Malita, a coastal town, is in the western part of Davao del Sur and is about 50 kilometers from Digos City.

From there, one can sail to General Santos City or Davao City.

The 17 suspects, including at least two women, were arrested after they abducted Ma. Cecilia Bonifacio, heir to the Bonifacio Motors business here early this year.

The suspects, led by Jerry Saligan, were based in Hagonoy, Davao del Sur and were also responsible for the abduction of Canadian national Pierre Belanger late last year.

A source said the plan could be executed today, when the detainees face trial.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will have rains and thunderstorms while Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshwoers and thunderstorm.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	HI 31°	Lo 23°
Baguio	Rains	HI 22°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Rains	HI 30°	Lo 25°
Laoag	Rains	HI 29°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Rains	HI 29°	Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Rains	HI 29°	Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 23°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 26°
Cebu	Rains	HI 31°	Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/01/02

Polls peaceful in Luzon areas

LUBAO, Pampanga—The synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections that were postponed on July 15 in flooded villages in Central and Northern Luzon went on smoothly on Sunday, with no reports of fraud and violence received by election officials.

At least 300 villages in Pampanga, Bulacan and Bataan and in Pangasinan conducted the elections on Sunday. Improved weather conditions and receding floodwaters greeted the voters, including President Macapagal-Arroyo who voted in her hometown of Lubao in Pampanga.

Ms Macapagal-Arroyo—Voter No. 83 at the San Nicolas precinct 1-A here—arrived at 11:30 a.m. She was the 106th among more than 300 voters in that precinct.

Wearing a blouse and apple green pants, the President mingled with her *cabalens* (province mates), hugging some of the surviving contemporaries of her late father, President Diosdado Macapagal.

The President stopped to buy *lanzones* and *rambutan* at the intersection of Guagua and Floridablanca towns where the public markets of those flooded towns had been temporarily transferred.

Vendors swarmed the President to get a handshake. She patted some on the back, smiled and, in her native Kapampangan, asked how they were.

Floodwaters receded in Bulacan, Bataan and Tarlac where the July 15 elections had been postponed.

On Sunday, Zoilo Perlas, Commission on Elections regional supervisor, reported a 75 percent turnout of voters in those four provinces.

Elections were held in three villages each in Dinalupihan and Bagac towns in Bataan.

Ten Pampanga towns, 11 villages in Moncada, Tarlac, and four barangays in Calumpit, Bulacan, also held elections on Sunday.

In Bulacan, Calumpit Mayor Ramon Pagdanganan said more residents cast their votes because of the good weather.

In Pangasinan no incidents of fraud or violence marred elections in 40 villages. *Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ELECTROWORLD

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To satisfy the growing demand for information technology products and services, ELECTROWORLD - your reliable I.T. products and office automation source has opened two Pangasinan branches. One is on the 2nd floor Magic Mall, Urdaneta, the other is on the ground floor Magic Club, Dagupan. Both stores offer an assortment of computer products, peripherals, accessories, fax machines, printer, scanners and digital cameras. They have technically able and service-oriented people who can provide you with total solutions and value-added services. With these new branches, we now have 32 stores nationwide and we can serve you better! And to mark its entry into Northern Luzon, ELECTROWORLD will hold the first exhibit sale of computer and office products in this part of the country-"I.T.'s Possibilities @ Magic" It will be held from August 2 to 4, 10AM to 7PM on the 3rd floor Magic Mall, Urdaneta. This three-day exhibit will have "How To..." seminars and service clinics for selected products.

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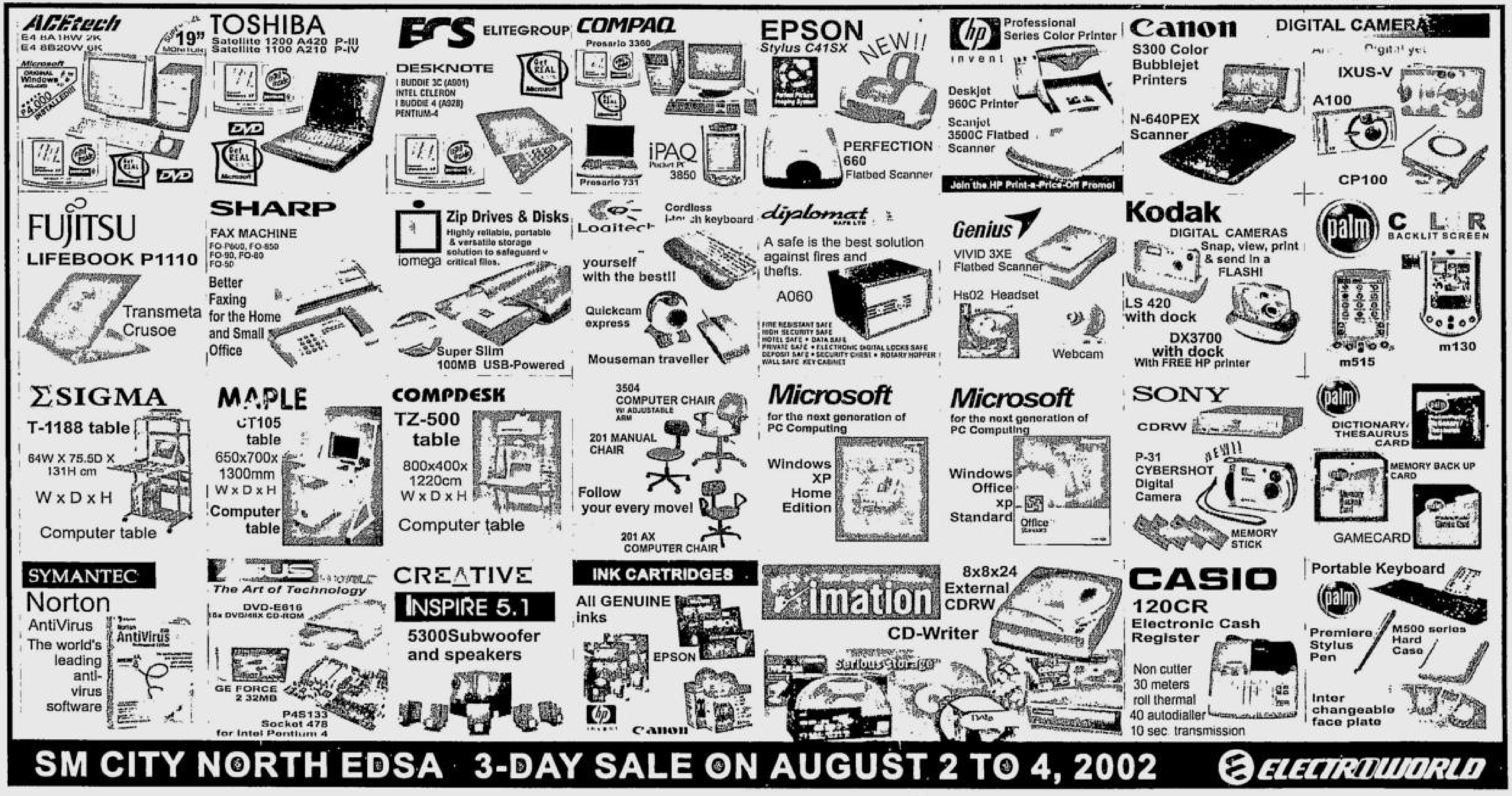
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INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◉ Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Remembering UPLB's 'desaparecidos'

Where have all the young activists gone?

By Jo Clemente
Contributor

PLAYWRIGHT and poet Bonifacio Ilagan Jr. has written a host of literary pieces bearing nationalist themes but it was only recently that he was able to write a poem for his sister Rizalina, one of ten activists from Southern Luzon who were victims of salvaging and involuntary disappearance.

On Saturday, July 27, exactly 25 years after the disappearance, Ilagan read his poem "Pulang Kandila" as a fitting tribute to his sister and her comrades. He was joined by friends and kin of the other victims, those of Cristina Catalla, Erwin dela Torre, Gerry Faustino, Ramon Jasul, Salvador Panganiban, Jessica Sales, Manny Salva Cruz, Virgilio Silva and Bong Sison. They were brought together for the first time by the desire to put a closure on a painful event that haunted them for years.

The anxiety of waiting is aptly described in Ilagan's verse: "Di ko na binibilang ang mga taon, basta't tuwing kaarawan mo, nagsisindi ako ng pulang kandila (I'm no longer counting the years, but everytime your birthday comes, I light a red candle) . . . "

So too is the uncertainty of what transpired: "Sinong nakakaalam kung ikaw ay nasaan? Maliban sa kanilang dumakip, nagpahirap, nanggahasa. At pagkatapos, nang lupaypay na ang iyong katawan, sa iyong sentido ay nag-umang ng baril; o nagtarak sa dibdib mong sugatan ng punyal. Sino ang nakaalam? Wala (Who knows where you are? Except for them who arrested, tortured, raped you. And then, when your body was maimed, they pointed the gun in your temple; or stabbed your wounded breast. Who knows? Nobody)."

Still, there too was the hope that one day their loved ones would come back home. No one ever did.

Is this tribute then, that celebrated the lives of their martyrs enough for a closure on their collective grief?

For the families they left behind, the wound may heal but there will always be the scar to remember the irreversible loss.

For fellow teachers and students they left behind at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños and the people in the communities they served, Southern Tagalog would never be the same again.

The disappearance of Southern Tagalog's group of 10 was in the words of their peers the "turning point that fanned the flames of a nationalist movement" this side of the Philippines.

Young lives lost

Who were these people and what were they doing to incur the ire of the perpetrators? The year was 1977, the fifth year of Martial Law. The victims, mostly in their twenties were among those who challenged and opposed martial rule by exposing the social and political ills of society both in the academe and in the communities.

Some of them were teachers and students from the UPLB while some of their friends became products of the First Quarter Storm (referred to as the period when the protest movement in the Philippines reached a significant strength with the students at the forefront) and were forced to go underground when Martial Law was declared in 1972. They went to different areas of the Southern Tagalog region to "work with the people."

On July 31, 1977, this group of ten was supposed to attend a meeting when they mysteriously "disappeared," never to be seen again. Reports alleged that the members of the group was abducted while they were on their way to a meeting in Makati City.

But they knew then that their lives were on the line.

In last Saturday's tribute, their families recalled the last time they saw their loved ones. They were forwarned: "If I don't come back in five days, start looking for me." That was Gerry Faustino's parting words to girlfriend and fellow student leader Bobby Jopson before he left.

It was the same parting line that Bong Sison gave his wife Irene. So too with Jessica Sales as she bid friend Ric, goodbye.

Of the ten, only the bodies of Virgilio Silva, Salvador Panganiban and Bong Sison were recovered.

Looking for 'Kuya'

To Joey Faustino who was barely in his teens that time, the search for his Kuya Gerry was in itself an ordeal. Families and kin of the victims were subjected to "military interrogation" as all sorts of questions were asked before one was allowed to exhume reports of "mass graves" or take a look at bodies unclaimed in funeral parlors. The families of the victims could not even talk to each other because of fear.

Joey described the anxiety during an exhumation: "sana ito na siya para matapos na; malungkot (I hope this is already him so it will be finished; sad but it will put things to rest) " and they can go on with their lives. But then again, he said "kung hindi siya, ibig sabihin may pag-asa pa na buhay siya (if it is not him, it means that there is hope that he is still alive)."

For Ramon Jasul's younger brother, the loss is hard to accept minus the physical evidence. Ramon is the second Jasul to give up his life for the cause and his mom, even in her death bed never waned in her hope that Mon would come home one day.

PLAYWRIGHT Boni Ilagan lights a candle in a tribute to his sister Rizalina and nine other activists in Southern Tagalog who disappeared 25 years ago. JO CLEMENTE

For George, Jessica's youngest brother, the experience was traumatic. The Saleses like the Jasuls lost two in the family. George said, it was the strength of their mom that got them through but like the rest, his Mom still hopes daughter Jessica is alive.

On August 27, 1977, the families of Virgilio Silva and Salvador Panganiban would find their bodies in Funeraria Oro in Quezon City. The corpses were found in a ravine in Tagaytay City.

A month after, on September 27, the body of Modesto "Bong" Sison would be discovered in a shallow grave in Lucena City.

The search for the rest went on. Separately, the families went to the Office for the Administration of Detainees and the Offices of then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, AFP Chief of Staff Fabian Ver and then Philippine Constabulary Chief Fidel Ramos.

According to Boni Ilagan, they begged, pleaded and cried, to no avail.

The Closure

The families recognize that numerous other cases had piled up and that their 25-year-old case had been buried in the dearth, but, still, someone's got to tell them what happened. On the long term, organizations like the Families of Victims Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) are advocating for the adoption of a bill that penalizes perpetrators of involuntary disappearance.

Two versions are now filed in the Senate and three in the House of Representatives.

The tribute was a ceremony that opened the hearts of the victim's families and friends to each other. Stories hardly told were said. Songs sung 25 years ago were sung again to remember them and that period in the nation's history that bred them.

As each candle is lit and word of dedication is said, no amount of tears could compensate for the lost.

Indeed, it was only proper that they all be included in the Bantayog ng mga Bayani. They were martyrs in their own right but justice is the only measure that can possibly close this episode in the lives of the families they left behind.

Tree surgery saves 150-year-old acacia tree

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Sariaya, Quezon

WHEN a big branch of the giant acacia tree in front of the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Sariaya, Quezon snapped and fell on the ground on October 12 last year, the priests in the nearby convent and the town residents became concerned.

"The acacia tree is part of the town's history. It is a memorial to the courageous past of our forebears," lawyer Jun Flores told the INQUIRER.

Some residents saw the incident as an omen that needs immediate action so as not to disturb the serenity enjoyed by the people living in the slope of Mt. Banahaw.

"The acacia tree has long served as a mute witness to the trials and tribulations of the Sariaya natives in the countless tragedies that have befallen the town," said Jun Lontok, leader of the Luntiang Alyansa sa Bundok Banahaw.

Church site

The present church site, historical accounts say, could not be where it is today if not for the acacia tree.

Records showed that when the first Sariayahins decided to leave thei. community along the Tayabas Bay coast to escape the Moro bandits, they brought with them the replica of the Crucified Christ of Burgos.

"Four men carried it on their way to their new settlement. (When) the men grew tired after walking for some distance, (they) laid the image under a great tree so that they could rest. When they were about to carry it again, they found to their amazement that they could no longer budge it. They asked the help of their fellow travelers but to no avail. The statue had become too heavy. They regarded this as a sign from God. He wanted the church to be built at the site. And so they did."

The huge three mentioned in the history is reportedly the same acacia tree in front of the Saint Francis of Assisi Church.

In recognition of the tree's contribution to their past, a group of concerned Sariayahins led by the Parish Pastoral Council for Economic Affairs, Rotary Club of Sariaya and the local government banded together to help find ways to save the tree.

The students and teachers of the Saint Joseph's Academy and the Saint Francis High School, which are both situated inside the vast church compound, also joined the "Operation Save the Millennium Acacia Tree" project.

150 years old

The acacia tree is estimated to be 150 years old. During the town's quadricentennial celebration two years ago, the acacia tree was lighted with 400 bulbs at night, symbolizing its being a silent witness to the spiritual, cultural and historical legacy of the town and its faithful.

"We felt we had to find ways to rehabilitate and preserve the acacia tree," Flores said.

A delegation went to the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna for help.

Thus, in November last year, a team of forest tree pathologists from UPLB evaluated the acacia tree and two adjacent similar tree species.

The report said the tree with the broken branch has a trunk that measures two meters wide and 25-30 meters long. It was registered on January 29, 1978 at the Tree Preservation Foundation of the Philippines by forester Nicolas Lansigan.

The three trees appeared robust and healthy because of heavy tops and canopies but the report submitted by the UPLB team headed by Ernesto Militante, Ph. D., described the three rain trees as high-risk trees because of the danger they pose on the lives of children and town dwellers who frequent the church and school compound. The big canopies of the trees serve as shade for students and parking space for vehicles.

The group pointed out that the once-heavy branches are broken. It noted that broken branches and tree cavities serve as avenues for decay organism. Dried and decayed branches are more prone to breaks and may fall at no time, the report warned.

Miracle

"It's a miracle that when the branch snapped, it happened late in the evening when no one was under the tree," said a churchgoer.

So devastating was the impact of the severed branch that it left a huge hollow in the main trunk. Based on the report, the large branch fronting the church snapped due to a V-shaped branch and the heavy branches at the top.

OF SARIAYA
ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

A MAJOR surgery had to be undertaken to preserve this 150-year-old acacia tree when one of its branches fell to the ground nine months ago and created a large hollow in its trunk. DELFIN MALLARI JR.

Militante's group immediately recommended the pruning of heavy, top branches.

With the supervision of forest pathologists or "tree surgeons," the local government, Flores said, took care of the tree-pruning. Then, the wound was treated with paint and fungicide mixture.

Militante's group also suggested that a "tree surgery" be immediately conducted to heal the wound created by the broken branch on the big tree and on a small cavity on the adjacent tree to prevent further decay and increase cavity size.

The group also ordered the fertilization of the soil surrounding the acacia tree for fast recovery of the wounded tree.

Bystanders could not help gazing in awe during the tree surgery process.

Tree surgery

The UPLB team first coated the cracked portion of the trunk with black coal tar. Then it enclosed the huge trunk cavity with chicken wire where the concrete mixture was poured.

Large stones were also poured inside the gap to serve as fillers.

"With the passing of years and if no infection seeps inside, the bark of the trunk will cover the concrete part and no one will notice the difference," Marcelina Pacho, a member of the team, told the INQUIRER.

"Most of the old trees in UPLB have undergone tree surgery. And the public does not even notice it," she said.

Militante said tree surgery, as a preservation and rehabilitation approach to old but worth preserving trees, started in the country in 1975.

He said some of the trees that have undergone tree surgery are a mango tree in front of the San Miguel Corporation office; a raintree/monkey pod tree in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac and those that line up along the Mckinley Road in Forbes Park, Makati.

Also operated on are century-old camphor trees in front of the SSS Building in Harrison Road Baguio.

In his paper presented during a recent gathering of environmentally concerned citizens of Sariaya, Militante stressed, "the skilled person who does the tree surgery definitely determines the possibility of saving the tree. But the owner, or concerned individual, who pays the bill, finally decides whether it is worth the price of repairing the tree (or not)."

When asked about the cost of saving a tree, the tree surgeon simply smiled, "the price is negotiable. What is important is the rehabilitation of the tree."

But for the Sariayahins, the price of saving their acacia tree is more than the actual cost of feeling the joy and triumph that their beloved tree will still stay with them for the next generation.

For, as the National Historical Institute stressed on its concrete marker, the acacia tree has been a mute witness to historic events in Sariaya, countless fiestas and religious devotions, joys of marriage and baptism of generations of the town's people, and funeral processions of their loved ones.

Pact allows US structures: runways, barracks, etc.

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five points raised by Guingona, but he said that "definitely there will be no basing rights whatever nature in that agreement."

Ople said the "Constitution will be fully respected and all these doubts and fears being shouted on the streets are entirely misplaced."

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye elaborated on five provisions in an MLSA draft dated July 26, which, he said, would satisfy critics of the MLSA.

"Many of these provisions addressed the observations of Guingona," Bunye said. "This will continue to be fine-tuned."

On fears that the MLSA would grant basing rights to the United States, Bunye said the provision would be worded as: "No US military base, facility or permanent structure shall be constructed, established or allowed under the agreement."

The second provision says, "storage facilities or storage units and ports shall at all times remain under the control and supervision of the host State," meaning the Philippines, according to Bunye.

Five years

The third provisions states that the MLSA, which was earlier projected to be a 10-year pact, will cover only a period of five years.

The fourth says the agreement can be terminated upon prior six-month notice by each party.

The fifth provision says the pact will be signed by the chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the commander of the US Pacific Command.

Ople said the final text was not tied to the visit of US State Secretary Colin Powell, who will be in Manila on Friday.

In fact, Ople said, President Macapagal-Arroyo did not set a deadline for the signing of the MLSA. But the President and Powell would talk about the MLSA during their meeting on Saturday, according to Ople.

Golez said the MLSA could be signed "in three months" as the Americans were already studying the final text.

During lunch with Malacañang reporters, Ms Macapagal said members of Congress could not yet be briefed on the MLSA because "it's not finalized yet."

Ms Macapagal insisted that the MLSA was a mere accounting agreement of supplies and equipment. She said that had it been signed before the end of the Balikatan 02-1 on July 31, the MLSA could have covered the transfer of US equipment used in the six-month exercise.

"In other words, the MLSA will make it automatic. That is what the MLSA is about," Ms Macapagal said.

The President said that the government was not divulging details of the draft because critics "will always find something wrong anyway."

Bunye said the MLSA contained citations from a Supreme Court ruling concerning a related matter.

"It can pass even if this is questioned before the Supreme Court," Bunye said. "It doesn't violate any existing laws."

Senate scrutiny

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the Senate should scrutinize the MLSA to determine whether it was an executive agreement or a treaty.

"The Senate must first be furnished a copy of the draft MLSA before its approval and signing by the Philippines and the United States. If it is a treaty, it is subject to the ratification of the Senate," Pimentel said in a statement.

But Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said the MLSA was "merely an executive agreement."

"This is basically an accounting, logistical issue on the supply chain (of US military support to the Philippines)," he said.

Magsaysay noted that the MLSA was no more than guidelines that would cover operations "much like how FedEx delivers its goods."

But Magsaysay acknowledged that "the legislature could always have its inputs in the MLSA."

"By next week, we hope to receive a copy of the MLSA before it is signed," he said.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said the government should sign the MLSA to boost the country's defense capability.

He said the country "has no choice" but to accept an MLSA, which the United States is pushing, because the two countries are strategic partners in the war against terrorism.

Honasan said there was a need to stop all debates on the MLSA being a basing agreement because the government had accepted the reality that its foreign and security policies had to be influenced by a foreign partner.

"It means biting the bullet and swallowing our pride until we become strong. For how long, it depends on our leaders and our people when we can get our acts together," Honasan said.

He said the Constitution had in fact been technically violated by the terms of reference of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) in terms of numbers and duration.

Honasan, however, insisted that a final copy of the MLSA be furnished to the senators to enable them to scrutinize it.

House review

In the House of Representatives, a legislator said congressmen were also empowered to review the proposed MLSA before the Philippine and US governments signed it.

Muntinlupa Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon said the congressional power of the purse applied to the MLSA.

"It is the responsibility of the House of Representatives to scrutinize the proposed (MLSA) even if it is determined that the agreement does not need to be ratified by the Philippine Senate," Biazon said in a statement.

"This is due to the fact that the MLSA entails the purchasing and selling of supplies, services and logistics support which essentially, involve appropriation of funds," he said.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada, chair of the House foreign relations committee, said Reyes and Ople would be summoned to an Aug. 14 inquiry of his committee so that they could explain the MLSA.

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin, representative of Basilan, said the United States had made the signing of the MLSA a precondition to new Balikatan war exercises.

With a report Rocky Nazareno

August 1 Family Planning Day

Maliit na pamilya.

Masaya.
Maginhawa.

Isang paalala mula sa Department of Health, Commission on Population, at iba pang mga kasapi sa National Family Planning Program.

AIDS Society of the Philippines . DKT Philippines . EngenderHealth . Family Planning Organization of the Philippines . FriendlyCare Foundation Inc. Institute of Maternal and Child Health . Integrated Maternal Child Care Services and Development, Inc.. Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines . John Snow Research and Training Institute - Well Family Midwife Clinic . League of Population Officers of the Philippines, Inc. . Management Sciences for Health . Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development . Philippine League of Government Midwives, Inc . Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare . Reachout Foundation International . The Futures Group International . Trade Union Congress of the Philippines . Johns Hopkins University . United States Agency for International Development

KUNG SILA'Y MAHAL MO
MAGPLANO!

SIGLA
USAID

Balikatan 02-1 ends; US 'assistance' to begin

From page A1

"humanitarian assistance and humanitarian civic actions" would include "building schools, dealing with water problems" and medical-dental services.

Alongside these "immediate future activities," he said, US forces would train more Light Reaction Companies, provide night medical evacuation capability and make sure that the AFP Southern Command's operation center would be capable of conducting operations in its area of responsibility.

But the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and other militant groups continued to question the legality of the Balikatan war games.

Bayan secretary general Teddy Casiño said around 8,000 US troops would be arriving in Luzon and Basilan for the succeeding exercises although, he pointed out, the Constitution was clear about the ban on the basing of US troops in the country.

Fargo, however, said there was no legal obstacle to the new security plan because "we have this Mutual Defense Treaty and the Visiting Forces Agreement, and everything we will do is in direct compliance with those two documents."

He also said the number of US troops participating in subsequent exercises could not be determined because this would largely depend on "the specific security assistance modules and specific humanitarian assistance effort to be conducted."

"We are not building US bases in the Philippines," Fargo said. "In a year, our two nations will jointly assess the need for continued training, and we will shape it as we mutually agree. We will conduct the kind of activities that our treaty relationship defines and supports."

Right and popular

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the clamor for the continued deployment of US troops in the country "just affirms my decision."

"My policy decision was on the right track both in terms of what is objectively right and in terms of what the people want," she said.

The conduct of Balikatan 02-1—which involved 1,200 US and 3,500 Filipino soldiers—was a point of conflict between the President and Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who recently resigned as foreign secretary because of this "policy difference."

Guingona believed that the US military presence infringed on Philippine sovereignty and constituted a violation of the 1987 Constitution.

Ms Macapagal told reporters yesterday that in the discharge of her functions as President, "sometimes what is objectively right is not popular."

Balikatan 02-1 has been proven correct and acceptable to the people, she said, "so it's the ideal policy."

While sharing lunch with reporters, the President took a phone call from Fargo and was overheard telling him: "Yes, good afternoon and congratulations and thank you."

"That's very good for both our countries, so let's plan on the next one," she also said, apparently in reference to future joint military exercises.

At a briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye admitted that not all the US soldiers involved in Balikatan 02-1 would be leaving.

Bunye did not offer much explanation beyond noting that their staying behind was "like attending a conference" where the participants did not need to leave the venue at once.

"That depends on their armed forces," he said when asked if the US soldiers would still be considered on active duty during their prolonged stay.

A lot of money

Philippine military officials could not say how much the US government would be spending for the new security plan.

"It really involves a lot of money here. I do not know the exact figure allotted by the US forces for this," said AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu.

Before arriving in Zamboanga City on board an MH-60 attack helicopter, Fargo and his party inspected the airstrip that US engineers had rebuilt in Basilan.

Fargo told a group of Manila-based reporters who were asked to join his party that the airstrip was "symbolic of what could be done" if Philippine and US troops worked together.

At a press conference after the hour-long closing ceremony, Fargo admitted that there was not much difference between Balikatan 02-1 and the next military exercises.

He said the future exercises would also build the AFP's capacity to fight terrorism and insurgency.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said Washington's supposed military intervention in the Philippines was "intended to secure and tighten US corporate control of land, markets and natural resources in Mindanao, the rest of the Philippines and Asia."

"Its agenda is the establishment of permanent military presence and bases so the Philippines can be used as a launching pad for attacks against peoples of Asia and beyond," the party-list representative said, reading from a statement issued by the International Solidarity Mission (ISM).

But Fargo dismissed the statement, saying the ISM was entitled to its own opinion.

Success

Among the proofs presented of the "success" of Balikatan 02-1 were charts and statistics.

But Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, chief of the Joint Task Force 510, admitted "Our impressive numbers don't reflect the growing respect that the citizens of Basilan feel for the AFP and its US counterpart."

Responding to criticism that the Balikatan did not do anything good for the people of Basilan and residents of this city, Wurster said wryly: "They should count the number of people who wave and shout hello when Humvees pass by.

"(These are things) we have seen every day in these past six months . . . How do you measure the approval you can see in the face of a soldier who hits the bull's eye with his new M-16? How do you calculate the relief and gratitude of the family of a Philippine soldier, wounded in Basilan at night?"

But according to Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin, the mutually beneficial gains of the Balikatan are only temporary.

"The people of Basilan fear that the Abu Sayyaf will return and once more terrorize the province once the US soldiers leave," the representative of the island-province said in a statement. They also fear that the "scalawags in the military" will go back to their "old ways" when the Americans leave, he said.

Salapuddin also said the military gains of the Balikatan, although wide-ranging, would go to waste if these were not followed up with sustained socioeconomic programs.

He cited the circumferential road that US engineers had rebuilt, saying it would deteriorate and vanish in a year if left unfortified with concrete.

No objection

Salapuddin expressed agreement with plans for new Balikatan exercises. "I will pose no objection to the continued stay of the US soldiers provided that a new agreement or treaty, to be ratified by both the Philippines and the US, is put in place and followed by an increase in the socioeconomic and infrastructure assistance to Basilan," he said.

He pointed out that the US troops had not violated the Balikatan Terms of Reference and should be allowed to stay.

But he said the House should investigate the charge made by Bayan Muna Representatives Ocampo and Liza Masa that an American soldier shot and wounded Tuburan resident Buyong-buyong Isnijal in an arrest operation last week.

Salapuddin acknowledged that Balikatan 02-1 improved the fighting skills and capabilities of both Filipino and American troops.

He said that it neutralized the Abu Sayyaf, and that even military abuses had ceased.

Salapuddin said he agreed with the observation of Lamitan parish priest Cirilo Nacorda that Filipino soldiers were capable of neutralizing the Abu Sayyaf.

"Unfortunately, for reasons of their own, some of our soldiers are exerting only half-hearted efforts in confronting the bandit group," the lawmaker said.

Had they been dedicated to the job, they would not need US assistance, he said. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and Juliet L. Javellana in Manila***

Michelle's 'adios' melts GIs' hearts

From page A1

He related that whenever he passed by the Southcom grandstand where Michelle peddles her wares, he bought all her unsold items to distribute them to the other poor kids in the camp.

Recently, Castillo bought 10 cans of Kiwi shoe polish to gift Michelle and all the shoe shine boys.

The children of Zamboanga and Basilan topped the list of lifetime treasures the US troops would be bringing home with them.

US Navy Petty Officer David Weideman, a combat cameraman who moved around Basilan for the past three months taking photos of their projects, said that the innocent laughter, the jolly faces and innocent questions raised by the children would be forever etched in his mind.

Overwhelming

"The memory of the children very glad to see us, the people who came, the people who will come up to us and tell us how they felt safer, that we have come and help to make their roads better, to build water wells, the people who will just come up to us while we walk around and congratulate us and thank us for the help that we gave them, its very overwhelming," Weideman said.

He realized that Basilan, despite the horrific tales of banditry, kidnapping and beheading was really the home of "people with good hearts."

"We always felt that we were welcome," Weideman said.

He said his Basilan experience would help him a lot in making people back in the United States understand the fight against terrorism.

Heavy heart

On Monday, Commander Val said he would be leaving Zamboanga with a heavy heart, but with a great sense of accomplishment. He has participated in four of eight medical missions around Zamboanga, extending medical attention to thousands of indigents. Plans for more such missions in Basilan are in place.

His only regret was that he and his colleagues were never able to venture beyond the gates of the Southcom.

But the little that he saw however during the medical missions was enough to make him conclude that Zamboanga City was a good place to retire.

"You see the people in the United States may not really understand how hard it is for some nations to combat terrorism, the people of Basilan who can't fight for themselves and can't defend themselves from terrorists or bandits or thugs who come into their barangays and threaten them and sometimes kidnap and kill them," Weideman said

Maj. Chris Pappas said he would not forget the way Filipinos raise their families.

"The Filipino people are warm and friendly, and most striking to me is the family-oriented culture," Pappas said.

He agreed with Weideman about the hospitality of the locals.

"It was very surprising to see how friendly and welcoming the people are," Pappas said.

T/Sgt. Shirley Perez-Acosta, a Filipino-American soldier, said she learned that Filipinos would always tend to be chauvinistic.

"I do notice here that when I am with male soldiers, they tend to look, they always acknowledge first the men and ignore the female," she said.

But she said that in general, her stay here was worth treasuring, especially the memories of feasting on "lechon." One day, Commander Val hopes to come back with his family as tourists, to see more of Zamboanga Hermosa, "preciosa perlita" (precious little pearl).

And of course, to meet Michelle again.

LQ or kidnapping? Strange tale from Negros

From page A1

involved in anything, it must have been a lover's quarrel (LQ).

"*Walang ganyan. Hindi totoo iyan. Saan mo nakuha iyan? Baka kuryente lang iyan* (There was no such incident. That's not true. Where did you get that? That might just be misinformation)," he told reporters who asked about the incident.

Lina id he had even heard that hi vife was supposed to have g to Negros because of the in nt, but he denied this.

"*Ba wayan lang ng boyfriend at gir nd yan.* (It just might have been a fight between boyfriend and girlfriend.)," he said.

"I called Gemma and she denied it," said Sr. Supt. Drusillo Bolodo, Negros Oriental police director.

Bolodo said the report on the incident had reached the top of the police hierarchy, "but nothing is official so as far as I'm concerned, there was no such activity."

The intriguing story began after Dumaguete City Police Chief Supt. Rey Lyndon Lawas, in a telephone interview early yesterday, confirmed the "rescue" of the daughter of an important personality from her abductor, but declined to give details.

Lawas said the victim was to call a press conference soon. No conference was called, however.

The "rescue" reportedly resulted from a top-secret operation that took place virtually all over Negros Oriental and lasted from Friday through Tuesday night.

Acting on a tip from a source in Manila, policemen led by Lawas first went to Pamplona town, then to Bais City, then on to Manjuyod town and finally to Guihulngan town, 116 kilometers north of Dumaguete City.

But what happened in those operations is anybody's guess. And nobody is talking, except for a couple from Pamplona.

Confusing

"This is confusing," said Dumaguete Mayor Agustin Perdices, a relative by affinity of the Aranetas.

"There is someone who claims to be Fatima Araneta, the daughter of Gemma Cruz Araneta, and there is someone who claims to be Mrs. Lina, supposedly the wife of Secretary Lina, but no one has seen the two of them in Dumaguete."

Perdices also said the account of Fatima's rescue, as relayed to him by Lawas, was confusing.

"I was told she had used a cellular phone while in the custody of her abductors. She also reportedly managed to escape by shooting two or three of her captors. How was she able to obtain a gun? And where are the bodies?" Perdices said.

Could be hoax

He said his advice to Lawas was, "Don't swallow this right away. It could be a hoax."

Police had reportedly tried to keep the rescue under wraps but the matter became public knowledge after a couple from the town of Pamplona, about 45 km north of Dumaguete, reported that their home had been raided by armed men looking for a kidnap victim.

The men turned out to be policemen led by Lawas who had entered the compound of Ramon and Ging Bobon at dawn on Monday without a search warrant, terrifying the entire household.

A househelp of the Bobons, Neneng Rebusa, said the policemen were looking for a certain "Donna."

The policemen left after they did not find the kidnap victim there.

Gemma Cruz Araneta has two children—Fatima and a boy named Leon by her former husband Antonio "Tonypet" Araneta.

S nate squabble flares up anew

From page A1

sonal privilege to put on record "an attempt to consider for third and final reading three of the bills (passed during the June 3-6 session) even after these were already passed on third reading as printed

Unde he compromise Resolution N 391, the three bills—the Chains Act, the law on the Philippine- panish Friendship Day, and the Free Patent Law—will be "approved on third reading as printed."

"We are not out to cause more trouble in the Senate," Pimentel said.

He d he was merely pointing out the "proper procedure" was Senate Majority Leader Lore arda "to manifest that thes be recalled from the Hou epresentatives," where they submitted after approval ring the June 3-6 session.

Hostage

"If it's e sense of the Senate to redo the ls, then its OK with us," he said, dding that he cited the proper ocedure because of the "numei s interpretations" of Resolu 391.

App ing the bills on third readin vithout recalling them from tl House is tantamount to disregarding the work of the then "new majority" on the bills.

After Pimentel's speech, an angry Sen. Joker Arroyo chided the Senate leadership for "allowing the minority to hold the whole Senate hostage" and urged it to assert the majority's rule.

He also questioned Pimentel's remarks against the administration and pointed out that after the senators signed Resolution 391 that finally broke the Senate impasse, "they are bound by the provisions found within the four corners of the document."

A piqued Angara spoke next, saying "some administration senators are only reopening wounds."

"Everyone wants to do good for our country. No one should claim any moral superiority over anyone among us," he said.

Then came Cayetano, who said the June 3-6 session was illegal. He was later engaged in a lengthy debate with opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña on what truly constituted a majority and a quorum.

But Pimentel and Arroyo themselves moved to soothe frayed nerves.

Taking a less confrontational stance, Pimentel again rose to say that "while the administration senators now have the numbers, it would be dangerous if they do not consider the opinion of the minority."

"That is a very dangerous proposition," he said. "Even if the majority has the right to define the agenda of the Senate, the minority has the right to have its views considered."

He added that the majority could not "ride roughshod" over the minority.

A calmer Arroyo responded "to disabuse the mind of my soulmate."

"On the question that the majority would not like to consider the views of the minority, that is not true," he said. "We would always consider the view of the minority because that is the right thing to do."

No promise

Earlier in the session, opposition senators said they could not promise a "peaceful" Senate ahead if their colleagues in the administration bloc continued to break the chamber's rules.

"It depends on them. Like just now, when you hear Arroyo making all these comments, how can it be peaceful?" Angara told the INQUIRER.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said rules were again violated last Monday when Drilon hurriedly suspended the session after former Sen. Blas Ople delivered his valedictory speech.

"We could have settled the issue once and for all and we could have debated on it Tuesday on the floor and then we would be civil afterward," Lacson said, adding:

"But if rules are being violated left and right, and continuously, who can assure a peaceful, working Senate? That's what rules are for."

Lacson also denied reports that he was one of the hotheads in the minority who wanted to force a vote on the validity of the June 3-6 session conducted by the opposition.

He said he merely insisted that the rules be upheld, particularly on the provision on the suspension and adjournment of session.

Speaking out

Pimentel also questioned Legarda's statement in an INQUIRER report in which she said that at the height of Monday's standoff, he had refused to divulge the opposition's plan because "if I tell you our plan, you might prepare for it."

He said the quote "speaks of bad faith" on his part.

"All I wanted was that when they ask me what our proposal was, my right to speak out would not be vetoed," Pimentel told the INQUIRER.

He said he did not reveal his proposal to Legarda because there was a possibility that the administration bloc could shoot down his chance to speak once he asked to be heard.

"(She) was trying to read my mind," he said.

Pimentel also took exception to a statement made by Drilon that the opposition had sought the approval of the June 3-6 journals by taking advantage of the absence of administration Sen. Robert Barbers.

He said Drilon "should not use a crystal ball to read the mind of the opposition."

Legarda said she had no ill intention when she asked Pimentel about the opposition's plan during the Monday standoff that was already dragging way past midnight.

She said she had earlier asked Pimentel and opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara about the opposition's plan regarding the June 3-6 journals.

Jockeying

At the same time, administration senators have started jockeying for the chairmanships of the committees on finance, foreign relations, and government corporations and public enterprises.

The word is that Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar will most likely bag the powerful finance committee formerly chaired by Sen. John Osmeña, who has since defected to the opposition.

But Villar, who chairs the committee on agriculture, said this was not yet a sure thing.

"What is important is that the majority would give me that mandate (to chair the finance committee)," he said. "If given that, I would be willing to give up the post of Senate president pro tempore."

If named chair of the finance committee, Villar will handle the proposed P800.7-billion national budget for 2003, which Malacañang is set to submit to Congress.

According to Sen. Renato Cayetano, the foreign relations committee will most likely be given to Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who already chairs the committee on national defense and security.

The committee on government corporations and public enterprises is still up for grabs.

Senate Majority Leader Legarda said the chairmanships of these committees would be tackled in a joint caucus on Monday.

"We will also come up with a common legislative agenda during that caucus," she said.

Legarda also said that while she wanted to chair the committee on foreign relations, she could not do so.

"I would have to step down as majority leader, and I cannot leave the Senate president (Franklin Drilon)," she said. ***With a report from Cynthia D. Balana***

Bank exec in ₱200-M tax fraud faces plunder rap

From page A1

charges against them . . . and also to garnish their properties and accounts so we can collect the P4 billion to beef up our badly needed revenues."

The President likewise directed Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to assign 12 government lawyers in prosecuting the officers of these companies.

The Macapagal administration is struggling to boost revenues in a bid to keep the budget deficit within the P130-billion ceiling.

In her July 22 State of the Nation Address, the President announced a new thrust against crime and corruption in response to the most urgent concerns of investors and the Filipino people.

Soon thereafter, she had her photos taken with arrested kidnappers in Malacañang. On the eve of her Sona, she announced the arrest of an entire syndicate of drug manufacturers and traffickers.

Tax fraud

In San Juan's case, the Bureau of Internal Revenue uncovered the massive tax fraud when certain local and foreign companies were investigated for non-payment of taxes.

The companies, however, were able to produce Landbank receipts showing they had paid their taxes.

It was later found that the receipts had been falsified and that the tax payments had been diverted to at least three private accounts in the bank between January 2001 and June this year.

The accounts belonged to a certain Alma A. Clemente (Account No. 2392-0016-25), Joven C. Aquino (Account No. 2391-0581-75), and Roberto Lucero (Account No. 2395-0000-07).

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the names were fictitious.

The NBI invited San Juan for questioning on July 30, but the bank manager chose to remain silent.

After evaluation of the evidence, however, the NBI had San Juan booked, photographed and fingerprinted.

"He (San Juan) couldn't have done it on his own. Others must have been involved. We will continue with the investigation," Wycoco said.

"Hopefully, he will realize it will be good for him to cooperate and mention the others," he added.

For starters, the NBI charged San Juan with 17 counts of violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act for non-disclosure to the Anti-Money Laundering Council of transactions amounting to P4 million and more.

From February to June, he failed 17 times to report the money transfers to the three accounts in the LBP branch, according to Wycoco.

The charges underscore the Macapagal administration's drive to remove the Philippines from an international blacklist of countries branded as havens for money laundering due to insufficient laws to criminalize the act.

In a press statement, Landbank president Margarito Teves said the bank was initiating the audit of other branches to determine the existence of similar anomalies.

"We are also issuing additional internal control measures to strengthen enforcement and employee adherence to existing procedures," Teves said. ***With reports from AP and AFP***

Meralco . . .

From page A1

Tatalon, Quezon City on Monday morning.

"Fifty of us received disconnection notices but the others were able to resist the Meralco crew," Diwa said. "I left early on Monday and my wife was not able to reason with the Meralco crew."

Diwa is a member of an anti-PPA consumer alliance led by former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. The alliance, composed of 40 organizations, has filed a petition with the Pasig Regional Trial Court seeking a temporary restraining order on the National Power Corp. and Meralco's collection of the PPA.

The PPA is an automatic cost recovery mechanism set up by Napocor and distribution utilities like Meralco to cover fluctuations in fuel prices, power costs and foreign exchange rate. It also pays for unused electricity generated by independent power utilities.

Diwa said he was also one of about a hundred Meralco customers, who picketed Meralco's Roosevelt branch in Quezon City early in June.

"We asked them to allow us to defer payment of the PPA in our May billing and they gave us until July 15 to be able to pay," Diwa said.

Plea ignored

He said he and his neighbors again asked Meralco to either extend the deferment or allow them to pay in installments. But Meralco ignored their pleas and issued them disconnection notices.

Diwa said half of the hundred households that received the notices were able to pay for the May PPA.

"These were the ones who had low charges like P200," Diwa said. "Fifty others like me could not pay immediately. We have to pay between P400 and P2,200."

Diwa and his neighbors last night lighted candles in front of their homes to dramatize their protest against the disconnection of Meralco's service.

Diwa lashed out at Meralco's insensitivity. "We are just asking for a little more time. We even paid our last bill in full."

But Meralco vice president Elpi Cuna said the utility firm could not extend the deferment of the PPA payment.

Benevolent enough

"I believe we have been benevolent enough for accepting only their promissory notes and for deferring collection until July 15," Cuna said.

He said Meralco agreed to the deferment of payments because the company recognized that the customers had other pressing matters to provide for, like school expenses of their children.

"They signed a document and promised to pay by July 15. On our part, we have to maintain our cash flow," Cuna said.

Meralco apparently has adopted a different approach to a member of Congress, who has insisted on paying only for Meralco's basic charge and not the PPA since April.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran received last month a Meralco bill for P11.15, way below his average bill of P2,500 a month.

Beltran, who lives near the Batasang Pambansa complex and the Payatas area in Quezon City, said Meralco refused to accept his partial payment, although it did not disconnect service to his home.

A Meralco official said Beltran's electric meter could be defective.

Mark Jimenez backs MLSA

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE MAN facing extradition by the United States yesterday came out in defense of a proposed RP-US logistics support arrangement.

Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, in a rare instance when he sought media interview, debunked claims by Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos that the final draft of the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA) would grant basing rights to the US.

He said the MLSA would only be a case of "takeoff and landing" for US forces.

"I don't understand why there's so much qualms on and opposition to the MLSA when there are 67 countries which have it," Jimenez said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

Jimenez said Brunei, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea, Malaysia, Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand were among the countries which have existing MLSA "similar" to what the Philippines plans to sign with the United States.

"Except for Japan, no basing activities exist in these countries, only pure reciprocal exchange of logistical support (with the US)," Jimenez said.

He said that these Asian countries also signed their MLSA as an executive agreement and not as a treaty as Marcos and other legislators deemed it to be.

Jimenez said his espousal of the MLSA had nothing to do with his extradition case.

The United States awaits Jimenez's extradition following his indictment for tax fraud and illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party.

"No, it is not related. You should realize that my case is in court and the court is a separate entity. I have already followed the court and I have posted a bond so I am not a fugitive," he said. Besides, he said he was "pro-American."

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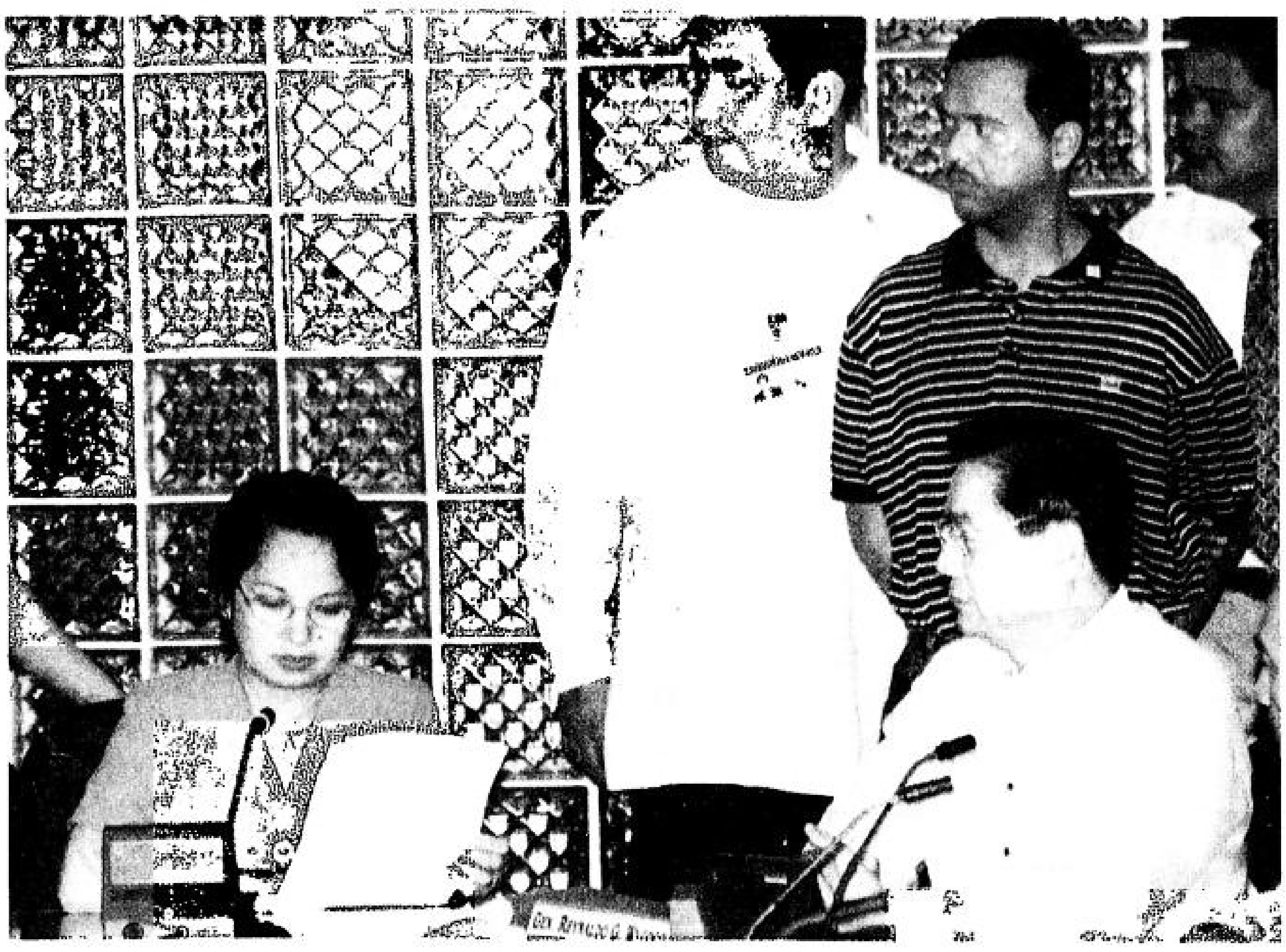


SHOWING her tough stance against crime, President Macapagal goes to the NBI to see for herself a Landbank manager, Artemio San Juan (in striped shirt), arrested for money laundering. ERIK ARAZAS

Strike 3, you're out

From page A1

Marohombsar was to be presented to Ms Macapagal at about 11:45 a.m. yesterday at the National Bureau of Investigation office in Manila.

"Connie will take him out," said the President, who first got burned about the arrest of Marohombsar on Friday when she made a wrong announcement in Sarangani.

Ms Macapagal also said that there would be a news blackout on the Marohombsar issue until he is finally in government custody.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye blew his fuse yesterday morning upon learning that another bum steer had hit the Palace with the wrong advisory on Marohombsar.

"Hold *niyo yan, kuryente yan* (Hold that story. It's a bum steer)," Bunye told reporters as he stormed inside the Palace to clarify things.

Noel Prado, an authorized official, signed the wrong advisory on behalf of De Guzman.

When confronted by Bunye, Prado pointed to Salviejo who said that the 11:45 a.m. appointment of the President was about the presentation of Marohombsar.

In his regular press briefing, Bunye said that Salviejo admitted his "fault of disseminating information without verifying."

Bunye explained that the news blackout imposed by the President would allow Brig. Gen. Alberto Braganza, commander of the Army's 7th Division, to complete talks for Marohombsar's surrender.

Marohombsar earlier said that he wanted to turn himself in to Braganza, former senior military aide of the President.

On Friday, President Macapagal announced that the bandit leader had surrendered but had to make a retraction when informed soon after that Marohombsar was still at large.

Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco partially owned up to the gaffe as he had supposedly gave the President the mobile phone with presidential adviser Norberto Gonzales on the other end of the line.

Gonzales, who advises Ms Macapagal on "special concerns," was then negotiating for Marohombsar's surrender.

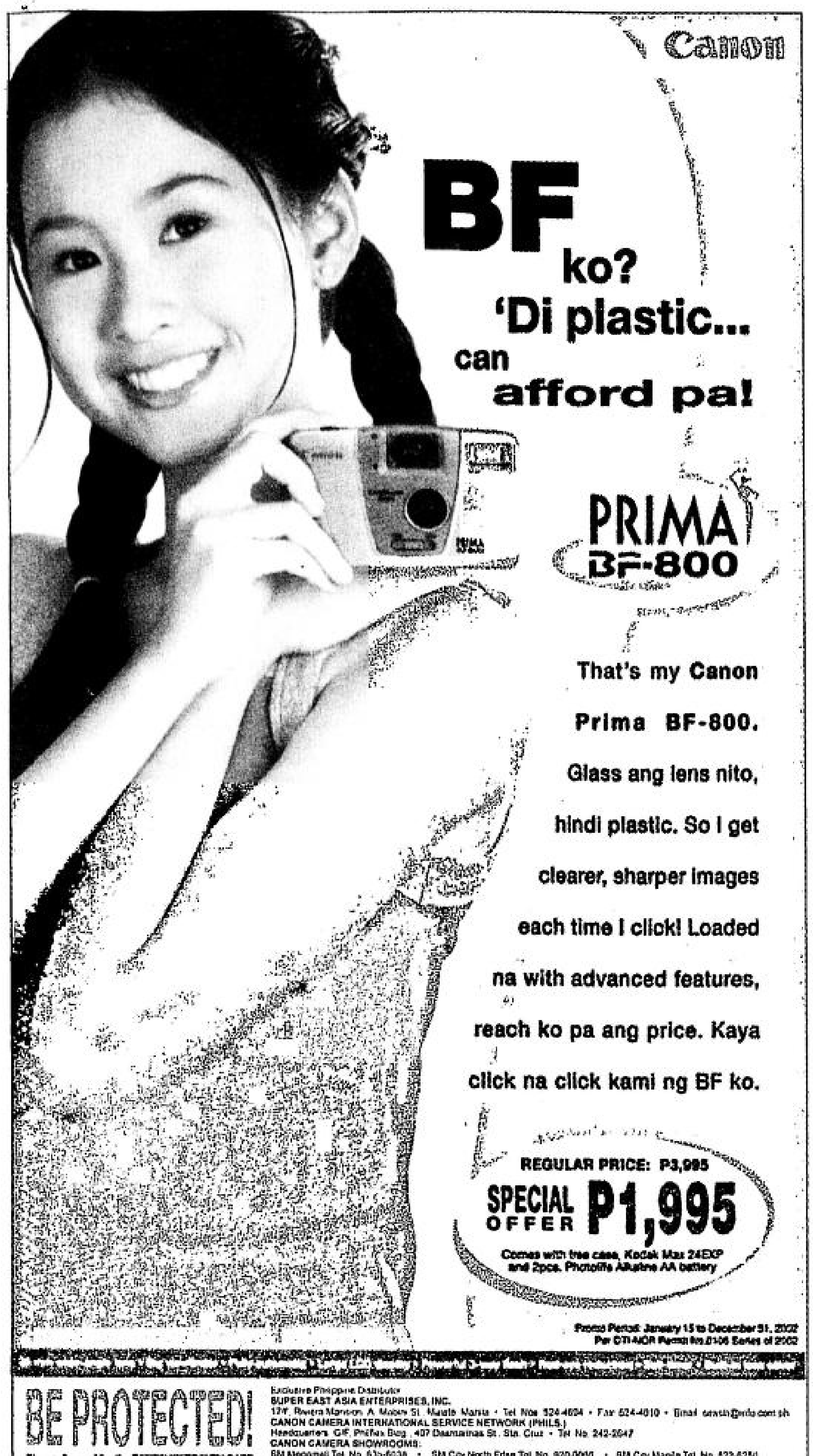
On Sunday, another bum steer struck Malacañang as a press conference was called to present top ranking Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

There was no Isnilon and the press conference was canceled even after news advisories had already been sent out.

In a radio interview on Monday, Capco admitted that he was informed by the military that Isnilon was already in government hands.

In yesterday's blunder, President Macapagal indeed went to the NBI but not to see Marohombsar.

The President was instead presented with the arrest of a bank manager implicated in the diversion of government taxes and a Nigerian nabbed with P7 million worth of cocaine ***(Story on Page A1)***.



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ASIAD PRELUDE

Paeng captures men's Masters title in Korea

NEPOMUCENO

BUSAN, South Korea—Four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno flashed vintage form to bag the men's masters title of the Korea International Open Championships here, in a performance that readily asserted the Filipinos' status as among the top contenders in bowling competitions of the coming Asian Games.

The lefty 45-year-old Filipino burned the lanes of the Home Plus Asiad Bowling Center, the same site where matches in the Sept. 29-Oct. 14 event will be held, with a total of 213 pins, routing RP team coach Purvis Granger (182) in an all-Filipino final Monday night.

The victory was worth 7,000,000 won (roughly P.3 million) for Nepomuceno, currently on a comeback trail after undergoing a complicated wrist surgery two years ago, while Granger, the top qualifier at the end of the eliminations, settled for runner-up honor worth 3,500,000 won (around P150,000).

Entries from Malaysia, Singapore, Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong, Thailand, Australia and Guam saw action in the tournament largely considered as a prelude to the Asiad.

The feat came in the heels of the Filipinos' triumphant campaign in last month's 17th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships held in Hong Kong where the country won three gold medals courtesy of Liz del Rosario (singles) and (all events) and the pair of Biboy Rivera and Chester King (men's double).

Nepomuceno finished a strong third among the 16 qualifiers in the men's masters. He defeated Singapore's Tom Hahi in the second match of the stepladder finals, 212-194, before downing Korea's Dong Sang Gon, 189-172, to arrange the championship showdown with Granger.

CJ Suarez (7th) and Rivera (8th) were the other Filipinos who qualified in the men's masters but failed to make the stepladder finals. Botchok Rey, RJ Bautista and King didn't make the masters cutoff.

The women's team failed to make headway as only team captain Jojo Canare advanced in the stepladder finals at No. 5, only to fade away easily when she lost right in the first match.

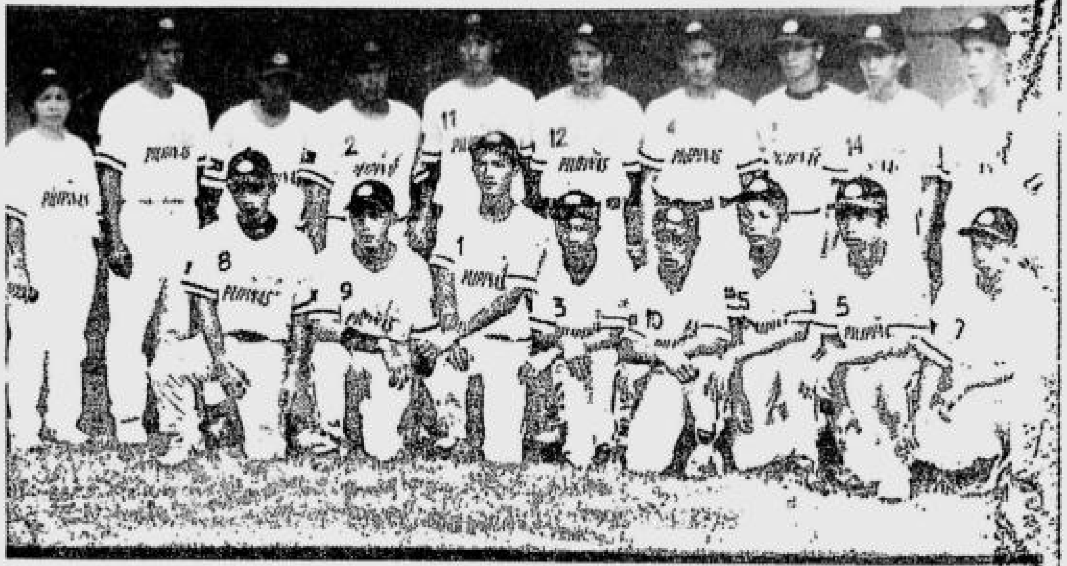
Malaysian Zhalif Zulkifli, the former women's World Bowler of the Year, triumphed in the distaff side, turning back Korea's Cha Mi Jung, 218-174, in the final.

Irene Benitez and Ces Yap qualified in the women's masters but never got past the stepladder finals.

Del Rosario, was a disappointment this time, crashing out for a spot in the women's master final.

Nonetheless, coach Johnson Cheng was pleased with the way the RP squad performed, saying the Filipino bowlers "are on course" in their Asiad bid.

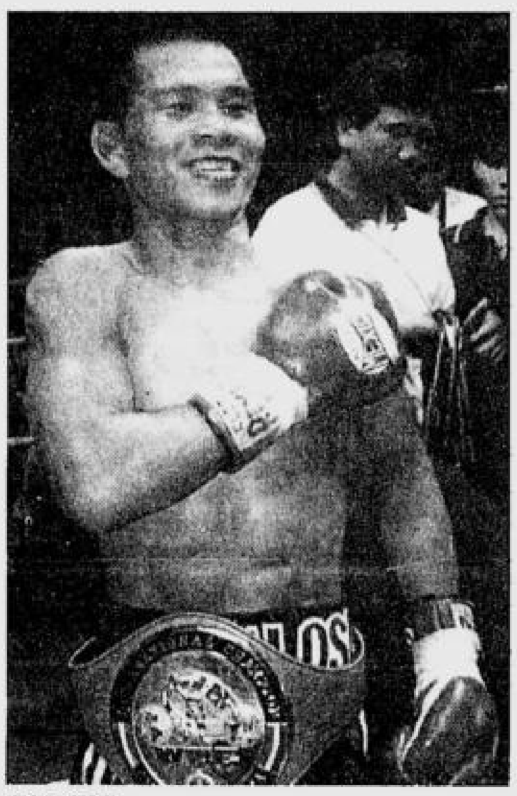
He pointed to Malaysia and host Korea as among the Philippines' rivals for the gold medals in the coming quadrennial meet.



BIG LEAGUE CONTENDERS

Members of the Philippine Team pose for posterity before they enplane for the United States to participate in the Big League World Series (16-18 years of age) in Easely, South Carolina, this month. The players, coached by Ramil Mercado, are from Tanauan, Batangas, who bested perennial winner Guam in the recent Asia-Pacific series held at the Rizal Memorial ballpark., The team will be feted by the Filipino community in Los Angeles before proceeding to South Carolina to do battle with the champions from Europe, Asia and South America.

Cebu hosts 'Fistorama' Saturday



ALL SET

Gerry Peñalosa will fight Japan's Seiji Tanaka on Aug. 20 in Honolulu in a bout he must win to qualify him to challenge anew WBC world super flyweight champion Masamori Tokuyama in Osaka, Japan, on Nov. 8. Peñalosa, the reigning NABF champion and WBC international titlist, lost to Tokuyama on points in Yokohama, Japan, in September last year.

WIDELY regarded by Filipino fight fans as a future world champion, Rodel Mayol will dispute the vacant RP minimum-weight championship with Nino Suelo on Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Mandaue Sports Complex in Mandaue, Cebu.

Mayol, undefeated in 10 fights with eight knockouts, is currently RP No. 1 contender while Suelo is ranked RP No. 5.

The 70-round fight card is being promoted by Terry Carter in cooperation with Joe Cantada Sports, producer of RPN-9's Fistorama.

Joe Cantada Sports, headed by executive producers Edgardo "Boy" Cantada and Gerard Cantada together with seasoned boxing commentators Taby Tabaniag and Ed Picson will be in Cebu to cover the fights for Fistorama, aired every Sunday noon on RPN-9.

Fistorama is presented by San Miguel Beer and supported by Cebu Pacific—the official air carrier, Cebu Plaza—the official hotel and Ford Cebu—the official transportation provider for the event.

SWIM SUPPORTER

Arena swimwear, an internationally acclaimed brand, recently signed a two-year contract with the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association as the official outfitter for the National Swimming Team to the Busan Asian Games. Arena covers a wide spectrum of sports apparel—from swimming to water polo, fitness to leisure sportswear, triathlon to cross-training. Anton Gonzalez (left), president of Planet Sports Inc., and Ral Rosario, secretary general of Philippine Sports Association, inked the contract for the sponsorship of Arena, which is available at Podium, Toby's Arena and Galleria, The Athlete's Foot, Olympic Village Alabang, Proline, Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La and other provincial outright Planet accounts.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Rene Reyes beat Chinese Taipei's YC Ma, 484 to 392, to bag the Masters title in the 17th Hong Kong International Open bowling championship. Also today in 1993, Bario Nadera notched 8 points to win the Metropolitan Chess Club Open tournament at the Harris Memorial College.

Lipa City marathon gets under way Aug. 4

RUNNERS from all over Region IV will troop to Lipa as the city plays host to the 26th Regional Milo Marathon, a drumbeater for the city's series of activities in celebration of its 55th Foundation Day.

Lipa City expects some 3,000 runners from different provinces on Aug. 4. These athletes will be running for three major events: 3k for the kids, 5k family fun run and 20k competitive run. A special inter-school running and cheering competition will also be held along with the major categories.

At stake will be P10,000 worth of sports equipment for the first placer, P7,000 worth of sports equipment for the second placer and P5,000 worth of sports equipment for the third placer. There will also be special awards and consolation prizes in store for runners.

The event which will commence at the Lipa City Hall anticipates the coming of thousands of spectators from the region.

The National Milo Marathon Organizer and the Lipa City Government combine the athletic chase of the former and the community involvement thrust of the latter to achieve a single goal of promoting competitiveness through sports undertakings.

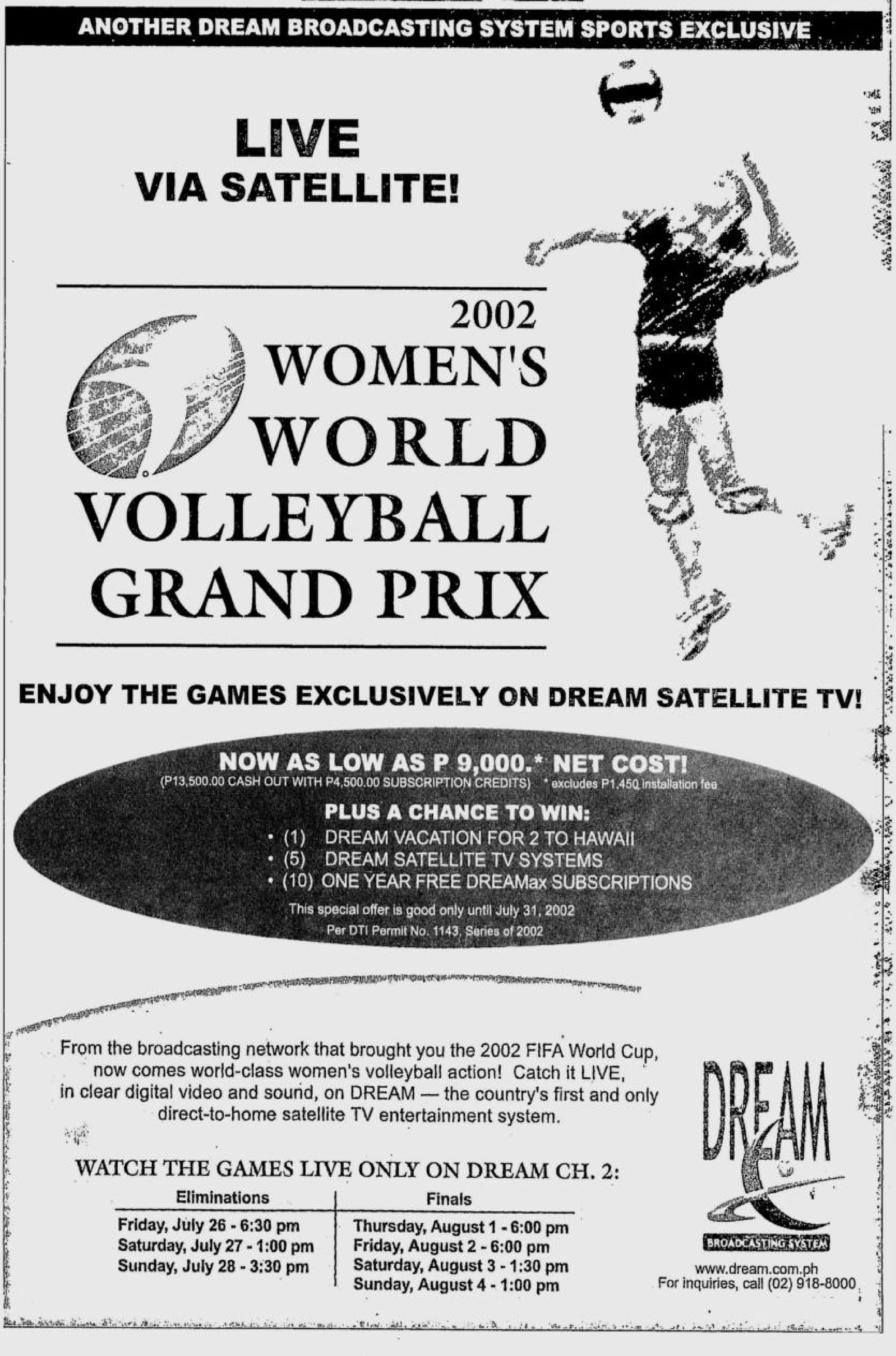
Gomez arms show guest

MOVIE STAR and athlete Richard Gomez is one of the seminar speakers at the forthcoming Defense &Sporting Arms Show 2002 on Aug. 1-5 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Gomez will touch on the subject of "sportsmanship" based on his vast experience in local and international competition for fencing which dates back since 1986. His seminar is scheduled on Aug. 3, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Other scheduled seminars during the five-day event are as follows: "Gun Safety and Responsible Gun Ownership" by The Philippine Practical Shooting Association (PPSA) on Aug. 1, 3 & 5 (2:30-4 p.m.) and Aug. 2 & 4 (12:30-2:30 p.m.); "Personal Protection" by Michael Melchor on Aug. 2 (2:30-4 p.m.), "Target Shooting" by Philippine National Shooting Association (PNSA) coach Orlando Marquez on Aug. 1 (7-8:30) and Aug. 4 (2:30-4 p.m.), "Crime & Violence" by VACC Chair Dante Jimenez on Aug. 1 (4-5:30 p.m.) and Aug. 4 (5:30-7 p.m.), "Choosing the Right Guns for Your Needs" by Manny Molina Aug. 4 (4-5:30 p.m.), "Legal Aspects of Gun Ownership" by lawyer Johnmuel Mendoza on Aug. 1 (5:30-7 p.m.) and "100 Way not to Violate P.D. 1866 as Amended" by lawyer Johnmuel Mendoza on Aug. 3 (5:30-7 p.m.). All seminars are free-of-charge to all show visitors.

Organized by the Association of Firearms and Ammunition Dealers of the Philippines Inc. (Afad) and Tradeshow International Inc. (TSI), the show serves as the country's legitimate one-stop-shop for high quality firearms, ammunition and accessories for law enforcement, sport, hunting and personal defense. The show is sponsored by Total Security Systems Inc., Wireless Solutions, Sunrise Holiday Concepts, 105.1 Crossover, 89.9 Magic, 99.5 RT, Citylite 88.3, 103.5 K-lite, Wave 89.1 and BMB Karaoke Superband.



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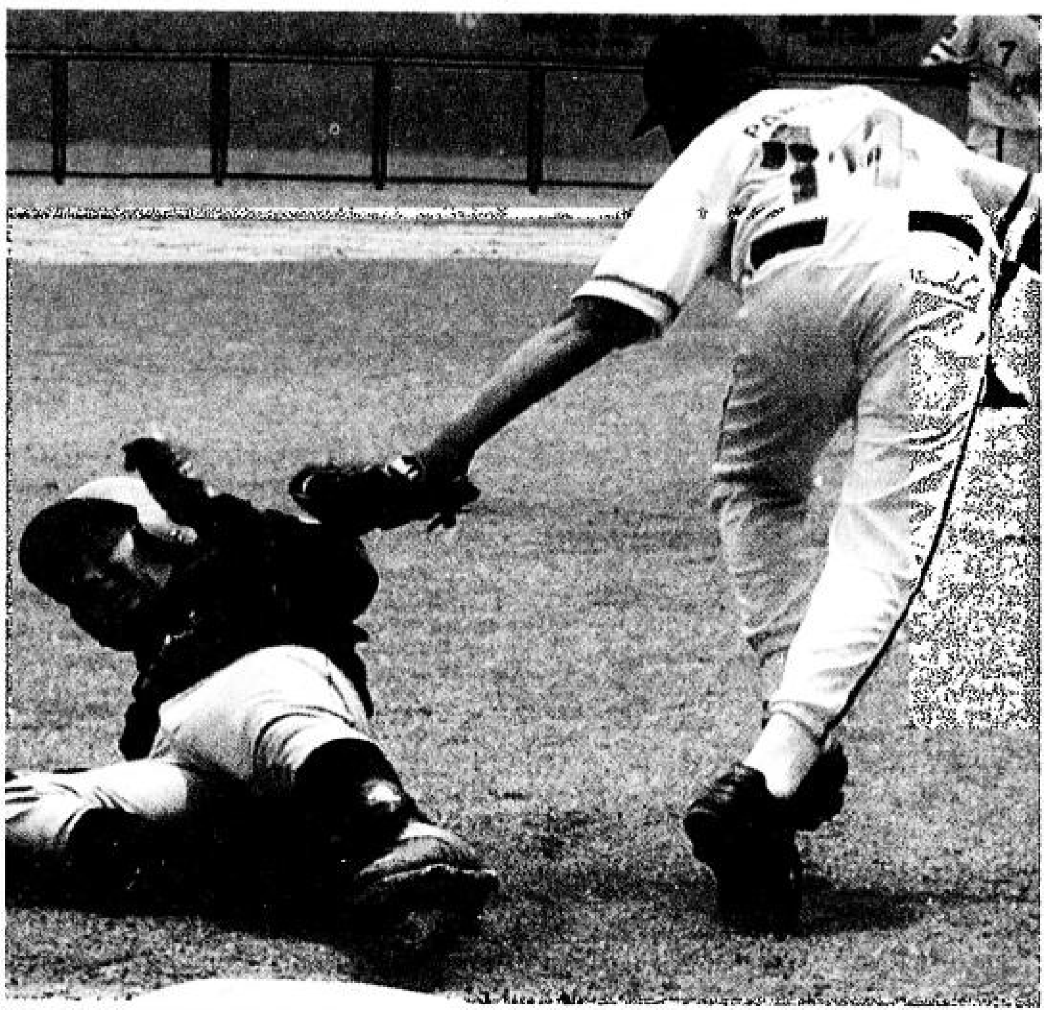
RP tots beat Kiwis for 1st win

DOWN but certainly not out in the third inning, the International Little League of Manila overturned a 0-6 deficit to hack out a face-saving 9-6 victory over New Zealand yesterday in the Pacific Regional division of the Asia-Pacific Little League championships at the Rizal ballpark.

The ILLAM clouters responded to the cheers of the hometown crowd by exploding for nine runs–sparked by a double each by catcher Pablo Mallari and third baseman Alex Van Der Gaaq –in the third frame and relief pitcher Gico Almendras earned the victory by shutting out the Kiwis in the last four innings.

Though the match was no-bearing since both the host nation and New Zealand were already out of the running, it was a rousing triumph for RP that eased the pain of a pair of blowout losses to Indonesia and Saipan earlier.

Jong Arcano



THE PHILIPPINES' Aldo Panlilio (right) tags out New Zealand's Tim Snedden during their game yesterday. The Filipinos won, 9-6. They will face defending champion and virtual finalist Guam at 11 a.m. today.

JESS YUSON

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Sports seminar Aug. 3

THE UNIVERSITY of Asia and the Pacific-Office of Student Affairs Sports Development Program and the National Athletic Training and Fitness Academy (Natfa) is staging a symposium on sports psychology and sports science to be conducted by two renowned sports doctors this Saturday, Aug. 3, at the UA&P in Ortigas from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Conducting the seminar are Dr. Remco Polman and Dr. Willy Pieter. Polman is a Ph. D holder in Sports Psychology and lecturer at the Univesrity of York England, University of North London and University of South Australia. Pieter, Ph. D, is an internationally recognized exercise psychologist from the Exercise Reasearch Associates I Michigan and also at the School of Health Sciences Sains Malaysia.

Interested parties may call the Natfa at 921-7224. Pre-registration fee is P400, while on-site fee is P500.

Nat'l taekwondo tourney at Ninoy lures big field

AROUND 1,500 taekwondo jins are expected to see action in the 25th Milo national championships which unwraps on Aug. 3 and 4 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, top-rated jins from all over the country will vie for honors in six divisions—senior men and women, junior and women and grade school boys and girls.

Twenty members of a Korean demonstration team will perform during the opening ceremony at 1 p.m. on Saturday (Aug. 3).

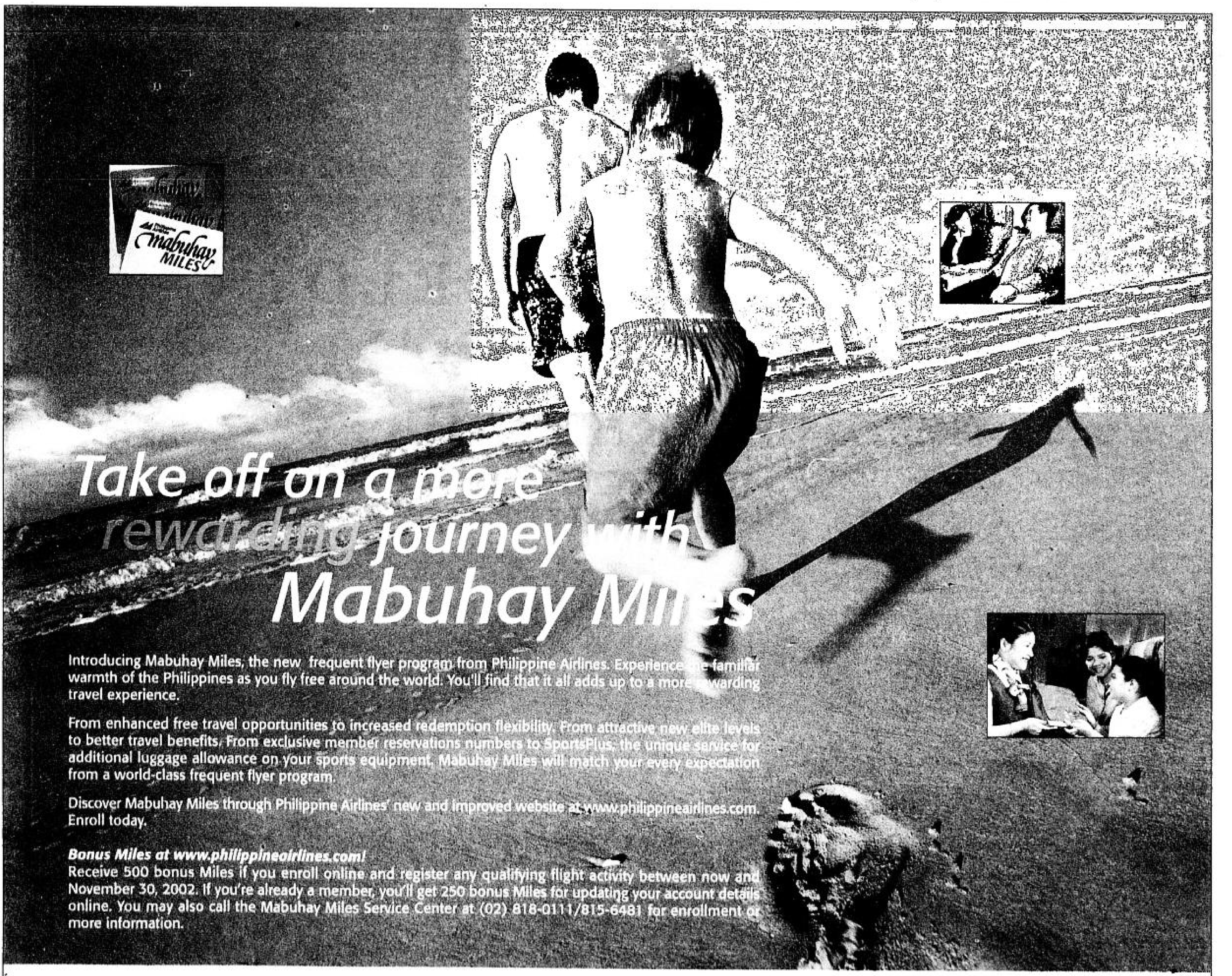
School and provincial chapters, including those from military branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, will be represented in the two-day tourney.

Among these teams are DLSU, UP, ISM, Ateneo, San Beda, Assumption, Don Bosco Makati, LSQC, UST, La Salle Greenhills, UE, Letran, Paco Catholic School, St. Scholastica, DLSZ, Baguio, Cagayan de oro, Davao, Zamboanga, Ilocos Sur, General Santos, Iloilo, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Army, Air Force, Navy, PMA, Philippine Merchant Marine Academy and PNP.

"This (tournament) will give the players the chance to show their newly acquired techniques and skills," said PTA vice president Sung Chong Hong.

Taekwondo, which has been accepted as a regular sport in the Olympics, Asian and Southeast Asian Games, is one of the most popular sports disciplines in the country. It is also contested in the UAAP, NCAA, SCUAA, Prada, Palarong Pambansa, National Games, AFP Olympics and Milo Olympics.

Martial arts enthusiasts and sports aficionados are invited to watch the two-day event, which starts at 9 a.m.



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Go ends up 'Lone Ranger' at POC meet

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE ANTICIPATED fireworks at the Philippine Olympic Committee general assembly did not materialize yesterday as athletics chief Go Teng Kok found himself deserted by his allies.

Go was left to question the POC's policies by his lonesome, zeroing in on the budget of the recent Olympic Day Fun that he said was "exceedingly high."

Olympic president Cito Dayrit said he was still awaiting the accounting of funds used for the event.

Officials from tennis, taekwondo, basketball, sepak takraw and softball, among others, failed to raise issues they had planned to unload, particularly the leadership disputes in weightlifting and cycling.

Dayrit said he foresees a good performance for the Philippines in the Busan Asian Games set from Sept. 29 to Oct. 14.

"They (athletes) have been performing well in tune-up competitions and though that does not automatically translate into gold medals, it's a good omen for us," said Dayrit.

POC secretary general Romy Ribaño also announced the inclusion of a 22-man baseball team to the Asiad, bringing to 178 the number of athletes drafted for the Games. The target is 200.

"Sending more than 200 athletes to Busan is the least of our worries," said Dayrit.

Only a minor "word war" between Go and Dayrit marred what otherwise was a smooth meeting.

Mayor Active Chess champion

DENTIST Jenny Mayor nipped Edward Oliver Ang of Star Paper Corporation in the tiebreak to capture the Success section in the second leg of the 2002 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or Peace 2002 held over the weekend at Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila.

Felix Tamayo of DOTC, meanwhile, edged four others in the tiebreak to rule the Prosperity section.

Mayor and Ang scored 5.5 points each in the one-day six-round event organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (ACCA) and supported by Belgosa Media Systems Inc. and Land Bank. "This is a good start for me," said Mayor who beat defending champion Dennis San Juan in the last round.

Businessman Douglas Peña was in solo third with five points. Sharing fourth-sixth places with four points each were San Juan, Giovanni Dy of La Salle and Tyrone Guya of Nippon Life.

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Magical Mark 2. I Love You 3. Velocity

Race 2—1. Sun and Sea 2. Bom's Bom's 3. Centra 4. Free at Last

Race 3—1. Ringer Kid 2. Run Doding Fly 3. Sir Olizon

Race 4—1. Real Tough 2. Friendly Venture 3. Hello Peter 4. Speed Mountain 5. Bullish View

Race 5—1. Laguna Gold 2. Breakaway Artist 3. Thunder Fire 4. Palachik

Race 6—1. Strawberry Joy 2. Fair Ringer 3. Ang Seaman 4. Boy Yoski

Race 7—1. Abstain 2. Are You Happy 3. Best of Times 4. Peek A Boo 5. Glamour Girl

Race 8—1. Kay Gee Em Ey/Tatler Cover 2. Might and Power 3. Our Hope 4. Patikim

Race 9—1. Hollywood Park 2. Lorna 3. Borderline 4. Silent Wind 5. Fearzam 6. Kayang Kaya

Buhain inks historic pact with Cuba

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CUBAN sports leaders have agreed to lend the Philippines their talent identification program, a scheme that has consistently given Cuba medals in boxing, baseball, volleyball, athletics, judo and wrestling.

Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission said yesterday that the agency will provide the different national sports associations copies of the programs he had obtained during his visit to Cuba.

"I hope I can convince the NSA heads to take advantage of this opportunity," said Buhain.

He signed the pact in Havana with Humberto Rodriguez Gonzales, president of the National Institute of Cuban Physical Education and Recreation.

Under the agreement, the Philippines can send athletes for training in Cuba and vice versa. The country will also be given priority in hiring Cuban coaches similar to what the PSC did when the boxing association tapped Jose Fernandez Liranza to coach the national team beginning in 1996.

"They (Cubans) are willing to give us 40 years of research and development and that's a great opportunity for us," said Buhain. "We are a nation of 80 million, certainly we have an abundance of talents. All we need is the technology to discover and harness them."

The PSC chief said he expects the exchange program to bear fruits two to three years from now when the country competes in the 2004 Olympics and the 2005 Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

KOURNIKOVA'S WRATH AP

Anna Kournikova of Russia rips a backhand return to Alexandra Stevenson of San Diego during their match at the Acura Tennis Classic Tuesday in Carlsbad, California. Kournikova won, 6-0, 6-1. Also advancing are Jennifer Capriati and Jelena Dokic.

Ginebra, Shell fight for survival

STANDINGS	W	L
Red Bull	7	1
Sta. Lucia	5	2
Coca-Cola	5	3
San Miguel	5	3
Alaska	4	3
Talk N Text	4	4
FedEx	3	4
Shell	3	4
Selecta-RP	3	5
Ginebra	2	6
Purefoods	1	7

GAME TODAY *(Philsports)*
7 p.m.—Ginebra vs Shell

By June Navarro

BARANGAY Ginebra is looking for a win to bail the Kings out of a three-game slide while Shell is seeking for a victory that will double its winning output last conference.

Either way, the Kings and the Turbo Chargers need to outsmart each other in order to stay alive in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup tonight at the Philsports Arena.

The Kings, however, have a stronger demand for victory. They need to sweep their last two assignments starting with the 7 p.m. encounter against the Turbo Chargers.

If luck sides with the Kings tonight, they have to beat the FedEx Express and hope at least three other teams don't reach a fifth win to get a crack at a quarterfinals berth.

Ben Davis, the Kings' leading scorer who averages 18.8 points per game, Isaac Spencer and Mark Caguioa, the only local who tallies in double figures, must take the initiative to drive them out of impending peril.

Otherwise, another early exit for the Kings looms in the horizon after they got booted out of contention in the round-of-eight last conference.

The Turbo Chargers, in a bind after San Miguel Beer inflicted their fourth defeat in seven outings with a 90-73 romp last week, have to steal at least two in their last three matches to make the quarterfinals outright.

That setback halted a three-game run by the Turbo Chargers, who lost their first three games before stunning pacesetter and quarterfinalist Batang Red Bull, Alaska and Selecta-RP in succession.

Iverson escapes unscathed

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson arrived at the courthouse in a three-car convoy, led by an unmarked car with a siren.

The NBA star left after a chaotic six-hour hearing Monday in which he was cleared of all but a misdemeanor.

"People will say if Allen Iverson wins this case, he won it because of celebrity," said Guy Sciolla, a defense lawyer in the case. "And it's the irony in this case that the only reason he got arrested was because of celebrity."

More than 100 people packed the courtroom, including lawyers and court staff not connected to the case. One court officer was seen handing Iverson a slip of paper to sign, while another law enforcement official shook Iverson's hand.

The Philadelphia 76ers guard had been charged with storming into his cousin's apartment with a gun and threatening two men while looking for his wife.

"I think that no one has the right to go into someone's apartment, no matter who they are, and try to use threats or force in order to get information," Assistant District Attorney Charles Ehrlich said. "And that's what this case is really all about."

Two counts of making terroristic threats were left standing after the preliminary hearing to determine whether prosecutors had enough evidence to try Iverson.

"It sounds like you had a relative looking for a relative at the house of a relative," Municipal Court Judge James DeLeon said.

The 76ers applauded the judge's decision.

"We look forward to the resolution of the remaining issue in this matter," the team said, "so that both Allen and the 76ers can return their full focus where it properly belongs--on the basketball court."

The ruling followed testimony from Iverson cousin Shaun Bowman and the two accusers, Charles Jones and his friend Hakim Carey. They disagreed on several key points, including whether the player was carrying a gun. ***AP***

Pinoy wrestlers aim to surpass 3 golds

TEAM Philippines is ranked among the favorites in the Southeast Asian wrestling championships to be held on Aug. 7-10 at the Badminton Hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Stalwarts Francis Villanueva, Marciano Basas, Jimmy Angana, John Esteban, Melchor Tumasis and Marcus Araneta Valda will banner the 26-man RP contingent, which underwent intensive training in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia in preparation for this tourney.

Bankrolled by the Philippine Sports Commission, the Wrestling Association of the Philippines has also sent the national team to Baguio City early this month for fitness exercises and team building sessions.

As host, the Philippines can field two male squads plus a complete lineup in the women's category in the tourney sponsored by the PSC, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

The country will try to surpass the three gold medals it won two years ago in Bangkok. Villanueva won two golds, Basas one gold and one silver, Angana two silvers and Esteban two silvers to steer the RP team to a second-place finish in the tourney.

The 21-year-old Valda, the youngest in the team, is the most promising wrestler following his silver-medal feat in the prestigious 2002 John Peterson International Tournament in Mongolia.

Team Philippines coach Lodoi Enkhbayar of Mongolia said he is confident the Philippines can dethrone Vietnam as the overall champion. Indonesia and Thailand are also expected to shine in the tourney.

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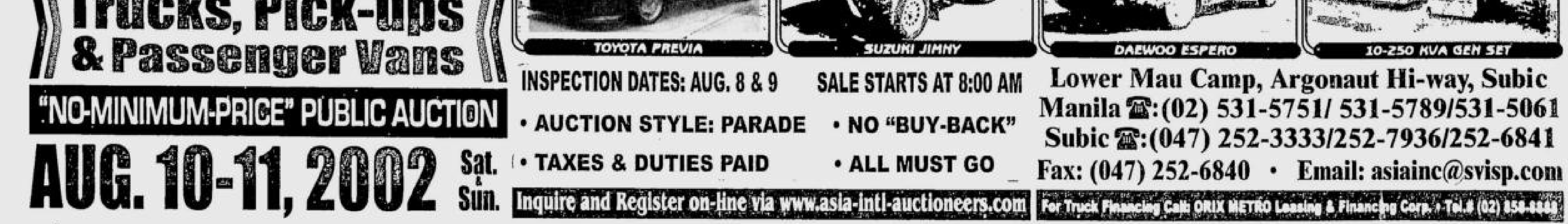
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Thorpe eyes Spitz' swim record

MANCHESTER, England—From now on let's call it the Ian Thorpe Commonwealth Games. With two gold medals and a world record in the bag already, the Australian swimming superstar is well on his way to his goal of tying Mark Spitz' record of seven titles in a single multi-sports meet. "I was really happy with it," Thorpe said of the first two legs of his quest. "The 400 was great and then I had a lot of fun with the guys in the relay. It was a good night and I think it was a really great start for Australia."

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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RP quintet vs Thailand

KUALA LUMPUR—The Philippines will meet Thailand today in the 3rd Southeast Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) Men's Junior Championship at the MABA Gym here.

Stunned by the taller Indons, 70-65, Tuesday night, the Filipinos must beat the Thais and then sweep their remaining two games to stay in the title-hunt of the tournament confined to players 18 years and under.

Head coach Johnny Tam, assistant coaches Ching Marcelino and Rene Baena and the players viewed and reviewed the tape of the RP-Indonesia game yesterday morning and then held practice in the afternoon.

Roy Luarca

Benilde collars 6th straight win

Standings	W	L
St. Benilde	6	0
PCU	5	1
Letran	3	2
SSC-R	3	2
JRU	2	3
Mapua	2	3
UPHR	1	5
San Beda	0	6

GAMES TOMORROW

(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)

8:30 a.m.—CSB vs PCU (jrs/srs)

11:30 a.m.—Mapua vs SSC (jrs/srs)

4 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

COLLEGE of St. Benilde kept its unbeaten slate intact as the Blazers escaped with a thrilling 75-73 win over San Beda College yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Rookie Paolo Orbeta pulled the Blazers out of trouble by sinking two freethrows with seven ticks left as coach Dong Vergeire's troops registered their sixth straight victory.

In the other senior game, Philippine Christian University outlasted University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 69-63, to solidify its hold of second place.

The Blazers need to beat the second-running Philippine Christian University Dolphins tomorrow to complete a first-round sweep of the eight-team tourney.

Churning out their best game so far, the winless Red Lions shot poorly from the freethrow line (13 out of 34) and lacked the stamina for an upset as they plummeted to their sixth consecutive setback.

James Hudencial and Jeffrey Bombeo dished out sterling performances but suffered from cramps at the last minute, bringing down the Red Lions with them.

Without Hudencial and Bombeo, swingman Erl Merelos was left to fend off for the Red Lions. Merelos scored 11 of San Beda's last 15 points including three triples.

The Blazers, known for maintaining their composure during tough times, kept hold of themselves as Sunday Salvacion, Orbeta and Al Magpayo delivered the goods at crunchtime.

First game (srs)

CSB 75—Magpayo 24, Orbeta 11, Te 9, Coching 9, Salvacion 6, Reyes 6, Capati 4, V. Reyes 2, Perlas 2, Mendoza 2.

SAN BEDA 73—Bombeo 19, Hudencial 12, Paterno 10, Cordero 7, Arbole 7, Weber 3, Gutilban 2, Ong 0, Velasco 0.

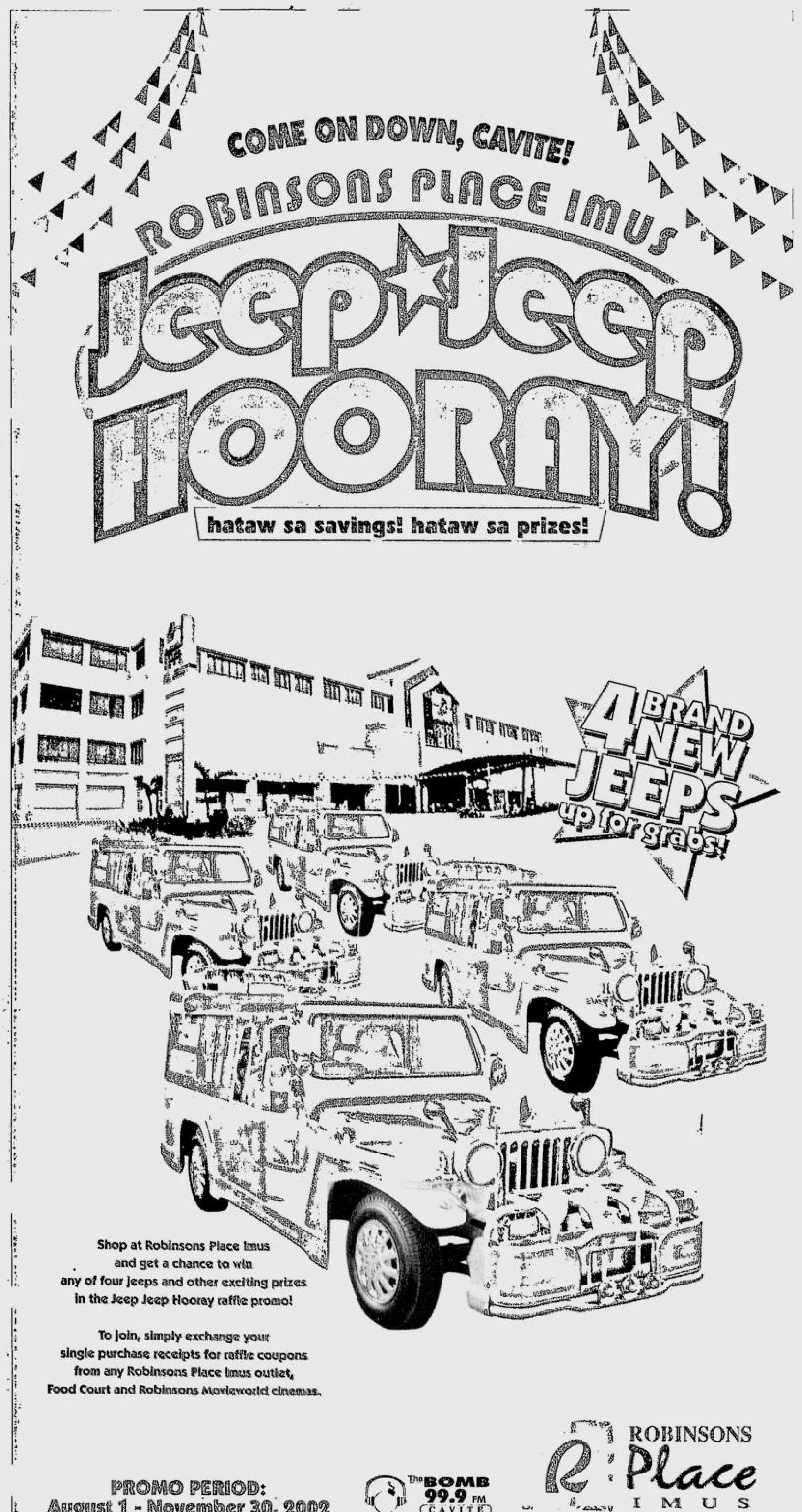
Quarters: 17-19, 43-32, 57-50, 75-73

Second game (srs)

PCU 69—Franco 15, Sans 14, Ilagan 11, Roque 8, Gaspi 8, Gatdula 7, Gementiza 4, Soriano 2.

UPHR 63—Cuenco 16, Ali-Ali 14, Botin 10, Hawkins 9, Cosme 6, Javier 5, Balboa 3, Tayer 0, Quiazon 0, Faundo 0.

Quarters: 17-16, 30-34, 52-52, 69-63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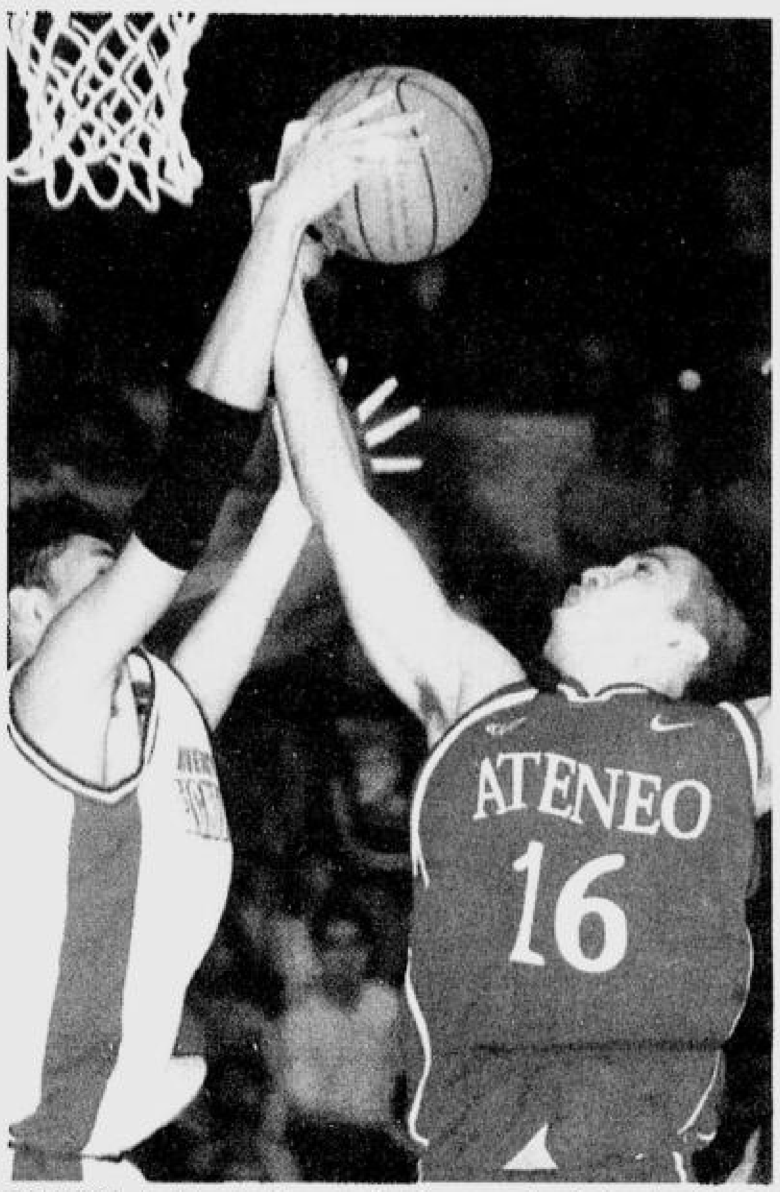


SONNY Tadeo (right) of Ateneo showing true grit as he battles for possession of a loose ball against a University of the Philippines defender during their game Sunday. Tadeo's effort was not enough, though, as the Maroons won, 53-49. JOAN BONDOC

Ateneo looking for big rebound

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	4	0
Ateneo	3	1
UST	2	2
UE	2	2
Adamson	2	2
UP	2	2
FEU	1	3
NU	0	4

GAMES TODAY

(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)

2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UE (Srs)

4 p.m.—UST vs FEU (Srs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

ATENEO tries to bounce back from a disappointing loss to University of the Philippines last week as it battles unpredictable University of the East today in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Blue Eagles suffered their first loss in four games against the Fighting Maroons, 53-49, at the Makati Coliseum, scene of their PBL Chairman's Cup triumph. A victory over UE will put Ateneo back on track in its title-drive.

University of Santo Tomas and Far Eastern University collide at 4 p.m. after the 2 p.m. tiff between Ateneo and UE.

The Tamaraws had lost to the Adamson Falcons, 76-59, and need to beat the dangerous Tigers in order to fortify their Final Four bid.

The Red Warriors are not lacking in firepower with the presence of James Yap, Ronald Tubid, Jay-Ar Estrada, Olan Omiping and Paul Artadi but their main problem is to keep their focus till the final buzzer.

Enrico Villanueva, Rich Alvarez, Lewis Tenorio, Wesley Gonzales and Larry Fonacier banner the Blue Eagles' bid to stay within striking distance of solo leader La Salle (4-0).

Despite losing to title-favorites Ateneo and La Salle, UST remains a legitimate Final Four candidate. The Tigers, however, need a strong finishing kick in order to beat the Tamaraws, who are sporting a 1-3 record.

FEU coach Koy Banal's charges were out-of-sync against the Falcons. They must learn to rise above questionable calls by the referees in order to silence the Tigers.

Nike winners meet PBA stars

THE MEMBERS and coaches of Nike 3 on 3 finalists from Metro Manila had a grand time in the company of many PBA stars during the recent awarding ceremony at the Dr. Funk's Playground at Glorietta.

The finalists came from the Philippine College of Criminology, Xavier School, Jose Abad Santos Memorial School, St. Francis of Assisi Las Piñas, San Beda College and International Christian School.

They had the rare chance of mingling freely with Nike endorsers Olsen Racela, Jeffrey Cariaso, Danny Seigle, Asi Taulava, Andy Seigle, Eric Menk, Alex Compton and Chris Calaguio. Also present during the affair were Nike Philippines officers Colo Ventosa and Rely San Agustin and tournament director Tanny Gonzalez.

The Metro Manila finalists will join the winners from Bacolod, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Pampanga and Baguio in the National Finals set this August at the Alabang Town Center.

GMA resolves Montalban trash row

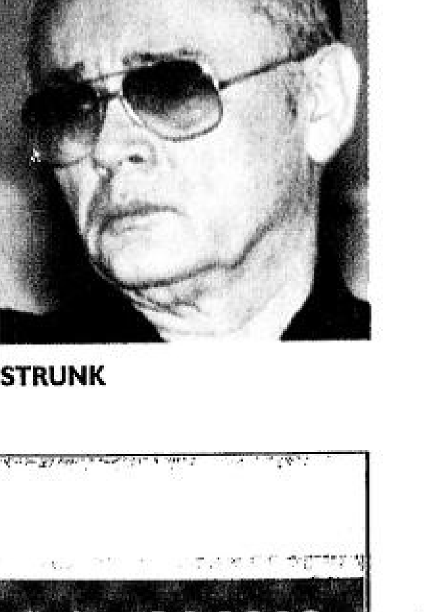
RODRIGUEZ Mayor Pedro Cuerpo said the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility will continue to host Metro Manila's garbage following a pledge from Pres. Macapagal-Arroyo to help the municipal government collect its monetary claims from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the City of Manila. *Nelson Flores*

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Rod Strunk wore a cowboy hat

Suspect seen coming in and out of Kintanar house



STRUNK

By Philip Tubeza

AMERICAN Rod Lauren Strunk was wearing a cowboy hat when he met with suspected hired killer Philip Medel Jr. in a Quezon City house before actress Nida Blanca was murdered, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday.

The house belongs to former military intelligence chief Gen. Galileo Kintanar, but the NBI does not know if Kintanar was also present during the meeting, said an NBI investigator who requested anonymity.

"He is very positive about Strunk," Wycoco said. "The witness saw him come in and out of the house. Strunk was even wearing a cowboy hat."

"He did not recognize Strunk then, but when he saw (the American) on TV, he was sure (that it was Strunk)," he added.

.Wycoco said the guard saw Strunk visit the house in Quezon City sometime in "late September or early October."

Strunk went to the house and met with Medel, the witness added.

"He vividly remembered Strunk because (Stunk's) briefcase kept on opening when he went out," Wycoco said. "(The witness) had to help Strunk close the briefcase repeatedly."

Wycoco said the guard's sworn statement was corroborated by immigration bureau security consultant Rolly Kintanar, another witness in the case.

An NBI investigator said the house belongs to Gen. Kintanar, Rolly's relative.

"But we're not sure if Kintanar was present during the meeting," the investigator said.

"The house is also used as an office and there is a reception area," the investigator added. "People could go there without the owner necessarily knowing about it."

The NBI has been getting offers from new possible witnesses after Strunk, Medel, and six others were charged for Blanca's murder.

But bureau officials said the NBI is carefully checking the claims of these people to find out if they are telling the truth.

On Nov, 7, 2001, Nida was found dead at the

ROD/ p. A26

'Squatters gaining, not losing, homes'

Leila B. Salaverria

INSTEAD of looking at it as losing their homes, they must look at it as gaining new ones.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said this to the reported 100,000 informal settlers who stand to be relocated as part of the MMDA's flood and traffic control projects.

"Mali iyon. Baka ibig sabihin ng 100,000 ay magkakaroon sila ng bagong tirahan, (That's wrong. Maybe the 100,000 informal settlers meant they would acquire 100,000 new homes)" Fernando said when asked for comment yesterday afternoon.

He was reacting to reports quoting the Urban Poor Association that said that 100,000 families stand to lose their homes because of the clearing operations the MMDA is conducting on sidewalks to ease traffic congestion, and the relocation of residents near waterways in order to minimize flooding in the metropolis.

MMDA Deputy Director Cesar Lacuna said several relocation sites have already been readied earlier and the MMDA is ready to transfer informal settlers there.

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* PASCUAL ECONOKIT BLISTERPCK	45.75	43.50
(Per pack) 1 Rifzin tab, Ethonah tab, 2 PZA Pascual tab. (Rifzin tab) Rifampicin 450mg INH INH 400mg. (Ethonah tab) Ethambutol HCl 800mg. (PZA Pascual tab) Pyrazinamide 750mg.		
*ECONOKIT - MDR	35.50	33.75
(Per pack) 1 Nyadin tab, 1 Rifampin cap, 3 PZA Pascual tab. (Nyadin tab) isonicotinic acid hydrazide 400mg. (Rifampin cap) Rifampicin 450mg PZA Pascual tab Pyrazinamide 500mg		
* PASCUAL ECONOPACK BLISTERPCK	36.75	35.00
(Per pack) 1 Rifzin tab, 2 PZA Pascual tab. (Rifzin tab) Rifampicin 450mg, INH 400mg (PZA Pascual tab) Pyrazinamide 750mg		
* ECONOPACK - TDR	29.45	28.00
INH 200mg, pyridoxine HCl 20mg		
* ISOXIN SYR 200MG/20MG/5 ML 120ML	66.50	63.00
(Per pack) 1 Ethonah tab, 1 Nyadin tab, 1 Rifampicin cap. (Ethonah tab) HCl 800mg (Nyadin tab) Isoniazid 400mg. (Rifampin cap) Rifampicin 450mg.		
* PASCUAL CONTINUKIT BLISTER PCK	29.00	27.50
(Per pack) 1 Ethonah tab, 1 Rifzin tab, 1 Vitalvin - E tab. (Ethonah tab) Ethambutol HCl 1000mg. (Rifzin tab) Rifampicin 450mg. INH 400mg (Vitalvin - E tab) Vit A 5000u, vit D 400u, vit E 10 5u, diCa phosphate 322mg, thiamine mononitrate 10mg, thiamine mononitrate 10mg, ascorbic acid 120mg, riboflavin 1.8mg, pyridoxine HCl 0.5mg, niacinamide 250ug, cyanocobalamine 2.5ug, dl Panthenol 1mg, Fe fumarate 48mg, manganese sulfate 1.54mg, Mg oxide 5mg, Zn carbonate 1.15mg, lysine HCl 25mg.		
* PASCUAL CONTINUKIT PLUS BLISTERPACK	33.65	32.00
(Per pack) 1 Nyadin tab, 1 Rifampin cap. (Nyadin tab) Isonicotinic acid hydrazide 400mg. (Rifampin cap) Rifampicin 450mg.		
* PASCUAL CONTINUPACK	22.75	21.50
(Per pack) 3 PZA Pascual tab, 1 Ethonah tab, 1 Rifzin tab, 1 Vitalin - E tab. PZA Pascual tab) Pyrazinamide 500mg. (Ethonah tab) Ethambutol HCl 1000mg. (Rifzin tab) Rifampicin 450mg, INH 400mg. (Vitalin - E tab) Vit A 5000 u, vit D 400 u, vit E 10.5u, diCa phosphate 322mg, thiamine mononitrate 10mg, ascorbic acid 120mg, riboflavin 1.8mg, pyridoxine HCl 0.5mg, niacinamide 250ug, cyanocobalamin 2.5ug, dl - Panthenol 1 mg, Fe fumarate 46mg, manganese sulfate 1.54mg, Mg oxide 5mg, Zn carbonate 1.15mg, lysine HCl 25mg.		
* VIPER BLISTERPACK	48.35	46.00
Ethambutol HCl 500mg, INH 200mg, pyridoxine HCl 20mg		
* ETHAM - 500 TAB	8.20	7.75
Ethambutol 200mg, INH 100mg, pyridoxine 8mg		
* ETHAMBIN INH TAB	4.50	4.25
* ETHAMBIN TAB PLAIN 200MG	3.30	3.15
(Per M - O - P pack) 1 Medifam cap, 1 odinah tab & 3 Pyzamed tab. (Per M - O compliance pack 1 Medifam cap & 1 Odinah tab (Per Odinah tab) INH 400mg, vit B6 24mg. (Per Pyzamed tab) Pyrazinamide 500mg		
* M - O COMPLIANCE PACK	20.65	19.50
* M - O - P COMPLIANCE PACK	31.50	30.00
Ethambutol HCl		
* COETOL TAB 400MG	9.10	8.60
(Tab) INH 400mg, vit B6 24mg. (SYR) INH 150mg, vit B6 8mg		
* ODINAH SYR 120ML	70.75	67.25
* ODINAH SYR 250ML	144.00	136.75
* ODINAH TAB	1.90	1.75
Pyrazinamide		
* PYZAMED TAB 500MG	3.95	3.76
Ethambutol pyridoxine Isoniazid Rifampicin		
* UAP TRIPACK	28.40	27.00

ANTIBIOTICS

Rifampicin		
* MEDIFAM CAP 500MG	26.30	25.00
* MEDIFAM - 300 CAP	14.65	13.75
* MEDIFAM - 450 CAP	20.40	19.25
* RICYN SUSP 200MG/5ML 60ML	194.50	184.75
* RICYN SUSP 200MG/5ML 120ML	333.25	316.50
* RICYN SUSP 200MG/5ML 250ML	555.00	527.25
* RIFZIN TAB REFORM	18.25	17.25

ANTIASTHMATIC PREPARATIONS

(Tab) Guaifenesin 200mg, salbutamol 2mg. (Syr) Guaifenesin 50mg, salbutamol 1 mg.		
* ASMALIN BRONCHO SYR 60ML	75.50	71.75
* ASMALIN BRONCHO TAB	4.45	4.25
Salbutamol		
* ASMALIN INHALER 100MCG 200D	253.50	240.75
* ASMALIN SYR 2MG/5ML 60ML	49.50	47.00
* ASMALIN TAB 2MG	2.25	2.10
* VENTAR SYR 2MG/5ML 60ML	46.50	41.85
* VENTAR TAB 2MG	1.90	1.75
Salbutamol sulfate		
* ASMALIN PULMONEB 2.5MG/2.5ML	22.00	20.90
Guaifenesin 66.65mg, terbutaline sulfate 1.5mg		
* BRICANYL EXPT SYR 120ML	194.75	185.00
* BRICANYL EXPT SYR 60ML	110.00	104.50
Terbutaline sulfate		
* BRICANYL INHALER 250MCG 200DS	438.00	416.00
* BRICANYL NEB SOL 2.5MG 2ML	25.40	24.25
* BRICANYL SYR 1.5MG 120ML	186.25	177.00
* BRICANYL SYR 1.5MG 60ML	101.50	96.50
* BRICANYL TAB 2.5MG	7.85	7.50
* BRICANYL TURBUHALER 0.5MG 100D	580.75	551.75
* PULMOXCEL NEB SOL 2.5MG 15ML	60.00	54.00
* PULMOXCEL NEB SOL 2.5MG 30ML	104.00	93.75
* PULMOXCEL SYR 1.5MG 60ML	40.50	41.65
* PULMOXCEL TAB 2MG	1.90	1.75
Budesonide		
* BUDECORT AQ NSPR 64MCG 120D	568.50	540.00
* BUDECORT REF CAN 100MCG/D 200D	432.50	410.75
* BUDECORT REF CAN 200MCG/D 100D	432.50	410.75
* BUDECORT RESPULES 250MCG 2ML	91.00	86.50
* BUDECORT RESPULES 500MCG 2ML	126.00	119.75

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Betamethasone 250ug, dexchlorpheniramine maleate 2mg		
* CELESTAMINE SYR 60ML	235.75	212.25
* CELESTAMINE TAB	9.85	8.85
Loratadine		
CLARITIN SYR 5MG/5ML 30ML	214.75	193.25
CLARITIN TAB 10MG	36.50	32.85
(Tab) Loratadine 5mg, pseudoephedrine sulfate 120mg (Syr) Loratadine 5mg, pseudoephedrine sulfate 60mg		
* RHINASE SYR 60ML	285.50	257.00
* RHINASE TAB	29.50	26.50

COUGH & COLD REMEDIES

Bromhexine HCl		
BISOLVON EL 4MG/5ML 120 ML	107.25	101.75
BISOLVON EL 4MG/5ML 60ML	72.00	68.40
BISOLVON SOL 20ML	94.50	89.75
BISOLVON TAB 8MG	7.70	7.25
(Loratadine 5mg, pseudoephedrine sulfate 120mg (Syr) Loratadine 5mg, pseudoephedrine sulfate 60mg		
* CLARINASE SYR 60ML	285.50	257.00
* CLARINASE TAB	29.50	26.50

DECONGESTANTS & OTHER NASAL PREPARATIONS

Oxymetazoline HCl		
DRIXINE NSL SPR 0.05% 15ML	149.50	134.50
* DRIXINE PED DRP 0.025% 15ML	140.75	126.75
Mometasone furoate		
* NASONEX AQ NASAL SPR 0.05% 18G	832.25	749.00
Mometasone furoate monohydrate		
* RINELON AQ NSL SPR 0.05% 18G	832.25	749.00

ANTIANEMICS/ PRE & POST NATAL VITAMINS

(TAB) Ca pantothenate 10mg, elemental Fe 105mg, vits B1 15mg, B12 25ug, B2 8mg, B6 5mg, C 500mg, E 10u. (Syr) Elemental Fe 25mg, vits B1 8mg, B12 25ug, B2 1mg, B6 3mg		
ODIRON C SYR 120ML	169.75	161.25
ODIRON C TAB	10.40	9.85

VITAMIN C

Ascorbic Acid		
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WPD has another witness against Jericho operatives

By Philip C.Tubeza

THE WESTERN Police District is not backing down in its dispute with the interior department's anti-vice Task Force Jericho.

Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo Jr., WPD-General Assignment Section chief, said yesterday that his men are working to get the sworn statement of another victim of the five Task Force Jericho members who have been charged with robbery-extortion.

The victim was forced to pay the erring task force members P10,000 after the person was also detained at the Sta. Ana, Manila house where two suspected bookies were rescued Sunday.

The two suspected bookies allegedly even saw this victim, Pedrozo said.

"This shows that they have been doing this (modus operandi) for a long time. It's only now that they were exposed," Pedrozo said.

He added that the P10,000 the group demanded was only "goodwill money" and that the erring lawmen would usually later ask for a "weekly" dividend from bookies and other persons involved in illegal gambling.

The WPD charged with robbery extortion task force members SPO1 Jesus Acejo. PO2 Ricardo Luciano Jr. and Police Officers 1 Danilo Hamila, Fred Faraon, and Manolito Prado, before the Manila Prosecutor's Office. The fiscal set their bail at P100,000.

Task Force Jericho officials filed charges of obstructing justice against Pedrozo and eight other Manila policemen for arresting the five task force members.

The five beleaguered policemen maintain that their operation in Manila on Sunday was legitimate and that they had been set up.

But they were accused of demanding P10,000 for the release of suspected bookies Michelle del Mundo and Rosemarie R. Martinez on Sunday. Del Mundo's father, PO3 Bonifacio Abad, a member of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame, filed a complaint against the suspects before the WPD.

The Manila policemen then set an entrapment operation and arrested the five suspects during a pay-off in front of suspect Acejo's house in Sta. Ana. "We are ready to face any of the charges. Our operation was legitimate and legal. We received a complaint (from Abad) and we had to entertain him," Pedrozo said.

"And besides, if his daughter was really involved in wrongdoing, would Abad have filed the complaint and cause this (brouhaha)? He reported the incident because he was feared for (the safety of) his daughter," Pedrozo added.

He noted that the five erring policemen brought Martinez and Del Mundo to Acejo's house and not to the nearest police station.

Cocaine bag trail bags Nigerian

EMENIKE ERIK ARAZAS

By Philip Tubeza

GOSWILL Emenike of Nigeria faces the death penalty after he was caught with about P7 million worth of high-grade cocaine.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco led other government officials in presenting Emenike before the media at the NBI headquarters yesterday morning.

Authorities seized 700 grams of cocaine from Emenike, 29, of Queen's Road, Project 8, Quezon City. It was the first successful "drug controlled delivery operation" done in the Philippines, according to the president.

Lawmen began to follow the suspect's trail after United States Customs officials seized a UPS express parcel—an overnight bag bound for the Philippines--at the Miami, Florida International Airport on July 19.

Wycoco said the package originated from a Maria Nilsa Claure in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The cocaine was concealed inside the bag's false bottom.

Eight days after the package was seized, the US Drug Enforcement Administration asked the NBI, the customs bureau, and local anti-narcotics officials to conduct "a controlled delivery operation" to determine who was involved in the cocaine importation to the Philippines.

Lawyer Edmund Arugay, NBI-National Capital Region chief, said the package was intended for a Jorge Nmadu, also of Queens Road, Project 8. Police said Emenike rented the apartment when Jorge allegedly left in 1998.

On the evening of July 29, two NBI agents acted as UPS employees and delivered the package to Emenike, Wycoco said.

Pregnant mom overpowers holdup man

A SUSPECTED holdup man committed a mistake that he will regret the rest of his life. He tried to rob a pregnant woman who turned out to be a black belter Monday night in Caloocan City.

As a result, suspect Antonio Pangilinan, 47, machine welder, of Malaun Street, Malabon City, was beaten black and blue by victim Clarissa de Guzman, 42, of Obando, Bulacan.

Investigation revealed that De Guzman was walking along Edsa in Monumento when Pangilinan suddenly appeared from behind and held her up at knifepoint at around 8 p.m.

The six-month pregnant De Guzman, a martial arts "taekwondo" expert, feigned helplessness and acceded to yield her jewelry and money to the suspect.

But while the suspect was busy divesting her of valuables, De Guzman got the chance to give Pangilinan several kicks and blows.

The stunned suspect fell to the ground bloodied. *Tina Santos*

Useless Judicial Council

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PARTY-LIST Representatives Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza, both leftists, are making a mountain out of a molehill on the alleged shooting by an American soldier of a suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorist in Tuburan, Basilan.

They want an investigation by the House of Representatives of the shooting. They say the American soldier violated the human rights of the Moro terrorist suspect, Buyong Buyong Isnijal.

Why don't Ocampo and Maza also have the Abu Sayyaf investigated for committing atrocities against innocent civilians?

***

Why do they focus on the supposed violation of the human rights of a suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorist but ignore the human rights violations committed by the Abu Sayyaf?

As President Macapagal-Arroyo said, "Why are they not looking into the violations of the Abu Sayyaf?"

The answer is simple: the two leftist representatives want to drive a wedge between the restored close relations of the Philippines and the United States. To the local communists, the Americans will always be the "evil imperialists."

***

The Judicial Bar Council has failed to do its job of maintaining the integrity of the courts by recommending judges and justices of dubious character.

The JBC is a constitutional body composed of the Chief Justice; the secretary of justice; a retired Supreme Court justice; the head of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines; a law professor; and a member of the private sector, preferably a lawyer. The President chooses whom to appoint to the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the lower court from the list of candidates submitted to Malacañang by the JBC.

But it seems the JBC does not screen the applicants very well judging from the reported recent scandals involving some magistrates.

***

Court of Appeals Justice Juan Enriquez Jr. and Cebu City Regional Trial Court Judge Agapito Hontanosas are respondents in separate complaints of "case fixing" filed before the Supreme Court by former litigants of their respective courts.

Enriquez and Hontanosas are charged with receiving bribes from litigants so the magistrates would decide in their favor. Enriquez allegedly received P1.5 million from Metro Manila businessman Antonio Litonjua, while Hontanosas allegedly got P250,000 from Cebu City businessman Richard L. King.

I won't touch on the merits of the administrative cases filed against Enriquez and Hontanosas for fear of being held in contempt by the Supreme Court. Cases being heard by the courts are not to be discussed in public because their discussion might affect the judgment of those hearing the cases.

***

However, if this writer would be allowed a short comment, no litigant in his right mind would accuse a judge or justice of receiving a bribe if the magistrate did his part of the bargain.

As the popular saying goes, when there's smoke, there's fire.

***

Supreme Court Justice Fidel Purisima retired in disgrace after his nephew took the bar exams in 1998 when he was the examinations chair. Purisima was supposed to have inhibited himself.

But it seems the high court doesn't subscribe to the saying that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. Retiring Supreme Court Justice Santiago Kapunan did a Purisima but he's not being punished by his peers.

In 1997, Kapunan's grandniece took the bar exams and passed when he was the bar exams chair.

***

It would be a pity if President Macapagal-Arroyo would sack Wilhelm Soriano, administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, because of his quarrel with Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Soriano is very much loved by overseas foreign workers (OFWs); Sto. Tomas is not.

Why is Soriano close to the hearts of the OFWs? Because he goes out of his way to look after their needs. During the time of President Ramos, Soriano eased somewhat the rage of the OFWs against the Ramos administration in the aftermath of the Flor Contemplacion case.

***

Appointed OWWA chief by Mr. Ramos following the sacking of top labor officials, Soriano took the following steps: he made life insurance coverage of all OFWs a must; he gave medicare coverage to all OFWs; using OWWA funds, he repatriated OFWs who had problems with their employers when before the workers had to scrounge around for airfare; he gave repatriated OFWs free training in running small businesses and extended them business loans.

Soriano organized mini-Olympics for OFWs worldwide. The mini-Olympics became very popular as it gave OFWs respite from their humdrum work. Sto. Tomas stopped it when she became labor chief.

METROBRIEFS

Car thieves fall

MEMBERS of the Central Police District Intelligence Unit arrested car theft suspects Jonathan Vila, 31, and Graciano Rivera, 39, along Mendez Road, Barangay Baesa in Quezon City after a week-long surveillance operation. Authorities seized from the suspects a white Nissan Sentra (WES-335), two sachets of shabu and a bagful of different car keys and assorted devices used for stealing cars. Follow-up police operations yielded a green Mitsubishi Adventure and a Toyota Revo the suspects allegedly stole. Members of the La Loma Police Station also arrested Paul Gregor Gonzales, 26; Philip Dominic Pineda, 34; and Jomar Tioyao, 22, last July 27 in Quezon City. Recovered from them were a gray Toyota Lite-Ace owned by Luis Jao-Lim of Del Monte Avenue, Maharlika, Quezon City. Police have filed appropriate charges against the suspects. ***Alcuin Papa***

Spaghetti poisoning

AT least 42 person, mostly children, were taken to different hospitals when they felt stomach pains and later vomited after allegedly eating spaghetti in a birthday celebration in Caloocan City Tuesday night.

Reports revealed that the victims started to feel stomach pains and later threw up at around 10:30 p.m.,some six hours after they had attended the birthday party of 2-year-old John Russel Alejandro, of interior 2 M.H. del Pilar Street, between 4th and 5th avenues, Caloocan City.

Balut vendor slain

BALUT VENDOR Randy Gaban shot dead Michael Macadaeg, 22, also a balut vendor, after an argument over customers on Monday in Quezon City. Police are still searching for Gaban, who escaped after the shooting about 5 p.m. near the victim's home in Barangay Rodriquez, Quezon City. Police said the victim was selling his wares when the suspect approached him, pulled out a handgun and fired once at Macadaeg. Police said the two vendors had a long-standing conflict over customers in the area. ***Alcuin Papa***

Japanese kills self

JAPANESE engineer Jinichi Akamine, 36, of Kyushu, Japan, jumped to his death on Monday in Mandaluyong City. Akamine, who lived at the Wack Wack Apartments in Barangay Wack Wack died from a broken skull and extreme shock after he jumped from the 10th floor of his apartment building at 6:30 a.m. on Monday, police said. SPO3 Guillermo Boy said that Akamine had slashed his wrist before he plunged to his death. He left a suicide note in Japanese where he apologized to his wife, family and employers for his shortcomings, police said. Authorities said police are still determining whether there was foul play in Akamine's death. Boy said the investigation is being coordinated with the Japan International Cooperating (JICA) where the victim was a consultant. ***Nelson Flores***

Snatchers arrested

WHEN SUSPECTS Richard Cajute, 20; Rafael Cleofas, 21; and Richard Racquel, 23, snatched the cellphone of Chona Gonzales last Monday in Quezon City, they made the mistake of their life. Gonzales, 29, a police officer 2 assigned to the Navotas Police Station chased them after they took her Nokia 8219 cellphone worth P11,000. Police said the Gonzales and the suspects were on board an FX taxi along Aurora Boulevard. When the vehicle reached the corner of Edsa, the suspects pulled out knives, pointed them at Gonzales and asked for her cellphone. Police said the suspects also tried to take her handbag, but she resisted. When the suspects alighted from the vehicle and ran Gonzales chased them. She also fired a warning shot with her service firearm. Cajute then surrendered to her, and bystanders apprehended Cleofas and Racquel. The three are now facing charges of robbery and holdup at the Cubao Police Station. ***Alcuin Papa***

Rod Strunk wore . . .

From p. A25

Atlanta Center building in San Juan.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the national police later pointed to Medel as the primary suspect.

Medel allegedly confessed to authorities that Strunk hired him to kill the actress.

Police also said it was Rolly Kintanar who facilitated Medel's surrender to the CIDG, which was then spearheading the murder investigation.

Strunk all the while denied that he knew Medel or that he hired him to kill his wife.

But a few months later, Medel recanted his testimony and claimed that he was tortured into making the confession.

Not just another riverside park

Leila B. Salaverria

THE sun has shone over the city for sometime now, but residents of Barangay Vergara in Mandaluyong are enjoying more than a respite from the heavy rains and floods.

They now get to relish the view, the breeze and the ambience in their recently opened park.

Samahang Alige, a group of residents from Barangay Vergara, and several kind-hearted donors, have turned what used to be a dilapidated junkyard by the Pasig River into a promenade area. Replacing the rusting metal sheets, discarded tires and pieces of wood that used to block the view of the river are flower boxes, several benches, a small stage, a slide, see-saws and monkey bars for the children. Several trees are being coaxed to grow big and strong to provide shade for the visitors.

"A lot of people have come to visit the place ever since the park was opened. Lots of children play there or stroll along the area to enjoy the breeze. Some take a bath in the rain, while others take a dip in the river," says Gregorio Quilitano, or Mang Gorio, a printing press owner who lives just across the park.

Now, young and old alike visit the park daily. In the morning, children frolic with their playmates while mothers bring their babies to soak in the sun. A grandfather brings his granddaughter to enjoy the playground. Neighbors engage in conversation, while others ride their bikes or take in the view.

"I've seen a lot of pregnant women walking along and sitting in the park during the morning. It's pleasant to look at them," remarked one of the residents.

In the night, the area is well lit, and children home from school resume playing. Couples sit on the benches or stand by the rope fence while talking. Others observe the twinkling lights of the city across the river.

Mang Romy Cruz, who takes care of the park, says that even residents from other barangays have come to visit the place.

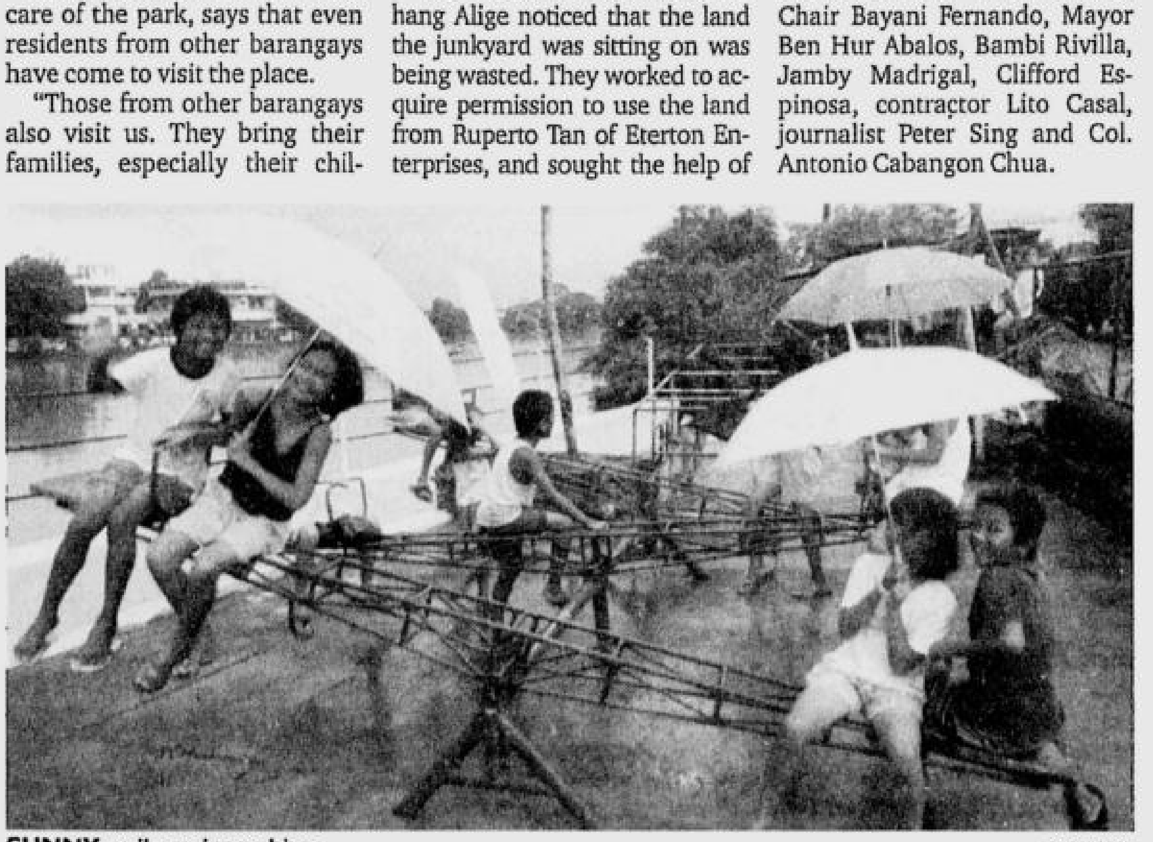
"Those from other barangays also visit us. They bring their families, especially their children. They even ride their sidecars here," he says.

Mang Gorio says the park has been a big help to the residents of the barangay because it gives them a place to hold activities. It also gives the children an area in which to play, instead of staying on the streets where they are prone to accidents.

The park was inaugurated on July 12 amid heavy rains, but the downpour failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the residents.

It came to life because Samahang Alige noticed that the land the junkyard was sitting on was being wasted. They worked to acquire permission to use the land from Ruperto Tan of Eterton Enterprises, and sought the help of government officials and like-minded people, who readily obliged and provided money, trees, paint, lampposts, benches and the like. Most of them were not residents of Barangay Vergara or even of Mandaluyong, but they lent a hand just the same.

Those who helped build the park include Sen. Blas Ople, Councilor Rene Sta.Maria, City Administrator Vic Victoria, civic leader Nandy Charvet, city accountant Elmer Santos, INQUIRER columnist Mon Tulfo, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, Mayor Ben Hur Abalos, Bambi Rivilla, Jamby Madrigal, Clifford Espinosa, contractor Lito Casal, journalist Peter Sing and Col. Antonio Cabangon Chua.



SUNNY smiles rain or shine. JESS YUSON

'STUART LITTLE 2'

The little boy-mouse roars again

By Luis Joaquin M. Katigbak
Contributor

REVIEW

EVERY MOVIE asks you to accept some basic premise.

Some action movies ask you to believe that the hero can wipe out a battalion of deadly *kontrabidas* without once reloading his gun. Science fiction movies ask you to believe in future worlds, and alien beings.

And speaking of science fiction, recent Woody Allen movies require you to accept the idea that someone who looks like Woody is inherently desirable to women like Mira Sorvino and Julia Roberts. If the movie cannot suspend your disbelief—if you cannot swallow the premises it asks you to swallow—then you probably won't enjoy the movie.

There are, however, exceptions.

All this is by way of leading up to the movie "Stuart Little 2," which is about a little boy mouse named Stuart who is adopted by a human family and who falls in love with a little yellow bird, and has numerous adventures as a result.

Success

Basically, this is a story fuelled by inter-species prepubescent sexual tension. But of course, when you put it like that, it just sounds disturbing. And it must be said that disturbing people was probably not the filmmakers' primary objective.

Judging from the end product, what they wanted to create must have been a movie that's funny, charming, visually impressive, heart-warming and enjoyable for a wide range of ages.

In this, they have succeeded, at least for the most part. However, the audience does have to take a lot of things on faith.

Like the first "Stuart Little," this movie asks you to accept that a human family can adopt a talking mouse-child and raise it as one of their own. This is the kind of premise that only works if you don't think about it too much.

Strained

However, this time around, we see Stuart attending grade school with his human brother George, driving a miniature car around the streets of New York City, and, most preposterously of all, playing in a soccer game with people twenty times his size.

EXCELLENT ACTOR. Stuart Little speaks again with the voice of Michael J. Fox.

One's credulity is strained to the limit, and it's hard not to keep asking questions about the consistency of the world that Stuart lives in. Why does everyone act like the Little family's setup is normal? Can all the animals talk to all the people? If not, why?

Setting aside questions about consistency and continuity, there is much to enjoy here. Stuart's struggle against his parents' overprotectiveness is something many kids can relate to. And while the lessons imparted can be a bit obvious, they are sugar-coated by an engaging, if simple and fairly predictable, story.

Transplanted

Stuart is a growing lad, looking for new friends and new experiences and frustrated at the seeming, um, smallness of his life. When he meets Margalo, a free-spirited little bird who is being pursued by a predatory Falcon, he gets more adventure than he bargained for, as well as his first experience with romantic stirrings (and how old is Stuart, exactly?)

The acting in "Stuart Little 2" is excellent. However, I am not referring here to Hugh Laurie and Geena Davis, who play Stuart's adoptive parents. The actors are required to act as if they were transplanted from some idealized 1950s bubble-world of good manners, right conduct and easy platitudes, and so at most I can give them credit for keeping straight faces.

Nor am I referring to Jonathan Lipnicki, the little bundle of energy from "Jerry Maguire" and the first "Stuart Little," who seems to have lost some of his verve and zest in this reprise of his role as Stuart's brother.

Impressive

No—I am referring to the uniformly excellent performances from the animated characters. The computer-generated detail on each of these talking animals is breathtaking, but even more impressive is the range of emotions they are able to convey.

Stuart's delight and naiveté, Margalo's brightness and charm, and Falcon's menacing sarcasm—all come across clearly, through an animated smile, or a certain tilt of the head, or a subtly expressive narrowing of the eyes.

Of course, the visuals are only part of what brings these characters to life. The casting of the voice actors is impeccable. Michael J. Fox is back as Stuart, and is as fun as ever. As Margalo, Melanie Griffith makes the idea of falling in love with a little yellow bird wearing an aviator cap seem believable. James Woods' Falcon is suitably villainous, with a touch of dark humor.

And as Snowbell, the Little family's house cat, Nathan Lane gets to deliver the funniest lines, half of which I suspect he must have adlibbed.

Technical achievements aside, perhaps the most impressive thing about "Stuart Little 2" is that while you never forget how bizarre its basic situations are, you eventually come to the point where you don't mind, and you just end up enjoying the ride.

Alma out, Tin-Tin in, Aljo goes to the field

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IS IT true that **Alma Moreno** is going to be taken out of "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" due to unprofessionalism?

Perhaps Alma thought the soap's title describes the threshold of the staff for prima donna ways?

* * *

Televiewers are missing Tin-Tin Bersola's perky presence on screen. She's one of the few TV hosts who doesn't have a "show biz" smile. Don't you just hate the ready-made smile that seems to be pasted on the faces of some hosts? Tin-tin can teach them a thing or two about sincerity on and off camera.

At the moment, Tin-tin is not yet at liberty to divulge her next career move. Just to give you a teeny-weeny hint: It's likely that she will be seen on the boob tube on a daily basis just like before.

* * *

Had a chat with **Aljo Bendijo** while we were both waiting for the cameras to grind. I asked him if he prefers the new format of "TV Patrol." **Henry Omaga Diaz** and Aljo are now assigned to the field while **Korina Sanchez** anchors the news in the studio. "It's exciting to be where the action is but sometimes it's hard also to focus because there are many onlookers unlike in the studio," said Aljo. "It's more spontaneous now because we're not reading from a teleprompter. *Nakakaduling minsan magbasa* from the prompter. If you keep blinking, you will look like you're making 'beautiful eyes.' You won't look credible that way."

I teased him: "What about playing the field?"

He blushed. "I don't want to concentrate on love for now." He admits, however, having a girlfriend back home in Davao who is also a newscaster.

"Work work *muna*," he said. "I fly to Davao when I can. That's when love comes into the picture."

* * *

How will "The Weakest Link" fare now that Allan K has taken over the hosting chores from Edu Manzano?

Personally, I adore Edu's hosting style. It's just too bad that he decided to quit the show. I remember him telling me that despite the game show's success, he did not want to be stereotyped as a quiz show master.

With Edu's many charms, I don't see how anyone can ever have enough of him.

* * *

Before **Patricia Javier** flew to the US to embark on her "Hollywood sojourn," she requested me to thank her avid followers for checking out her website, www.patriciajavier.com.

* * *

MTV addicts will be thrilled to know that the British band Blue is slated to have a one-night show at the NBC Tent at The Fort on Sept 2.

Blue won as Best Pop New Artist at the UK Pop Awards and Best Newcomer at UK's Smash Hit Awards 2002. All of their three singles—"All Rise," "Too Close" and "If You Come Back"—have hit the silver mark in the UK and here, where they are released by EMI Philippines.

The band is composed of Duncan James, Anthony Costa, Lee Ryan and Simon Webbe.

Lee reveals: "We're not unapproachable. That's the opposite of what we are. We went out last night and the first thing girls asked was, 'Are you a band?' We just laughed and said we were students. We're not doing this for the attention. We don't want to be treated differently by anyone."

* * *

If you're the artsy type, go check out Cafe Kilimanjaro on Timog Avenue. It's what show biz folk would call "karakter na lugar."

It offers authentic African cuisine at reasonable prices. A perfect chill-out place if you want a cozy evening. Stimulating conversation and intellectual intercourse available all night long.

* * *

Alliance Francaise de Manille presents "Bakat ng Limbag Sining," a collection of 52 fine prints by National Artists, contemporary works by members of the Philippine Association of Printmakers (Pap) and other noted Filipino artists.

Embossed, etched, serigraph, lithograph, engraved, mono print, linocut, dry point and monotype works by Manuel Rodriguez, Mansala, Botong Francisco, Cesar Legaspi, Sanso, Malang, Arturo Luz and Ben Cabrera to name a few will be on exhibit at the Alliance Francaise de Manille Totalfinaelf Gallery (209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II Makati).

Opening night is on Monday, Aug. 5. Exhibit will run till Aug. 30.

For more information, call 895-7585 or 895-7441. A lundi! Allonsy!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

Comedy bar opens in Cainta

GIGGLES, a new upscale restaurant and comedy club, will open tomorrow night, Aug. 2, along Sta. Lucia East Grand mall along Felix avenue in Cainta.

Giggles is a joint venture between Kayabe Corporation and singer-actress Isabel Granada. The venue boasts of state-of-the-art sounds and lights technology, a huge video wall, aquatic-themed interiors by JDC Designs and an entertainment lineup with top bands and stand-up comedians.

Giggles, which has a total seating capacity of up to 250 people, had a soft opening last July 26. Guests can enjoy free entrance, plus a 20 percent discount on food and beverage.

Isabel Granada will lead the lineup of performers for the opening night. Comedienne Beverly Salviejo will do a 45-minute comedy gig. There will also be an open bar from 6 to 10 p.m.

Giggles' other attractions include caricature artists for on-the-spot drawings of guests, a special "Funnies Photo Gallery" (where you can submit your favorite funny photo to be posted).

TV shows . . .

From p. A30

Films on HBO

CATCH these interesting movies on the HBO channel this month: Thursday, Aug. 1 at 8 a.m., "Wyatt Earp." 9 p.m., "Cast Away." Friday, Aug. 2 at 4:45 p.m., "Liberty Heights." 7 p.m., "Frequency."

Saturday, Aug. 3 at 7:45 a.m., "The Big Fix." 4 p.m., "Guarding Tess." 7:30 p.m., "Chicken Run." Sunday, Aug. 4 at 9:15 a.m., "The Godfather Part 3." 8 p.m., "Philadelphia."

Monday, Aug. 5 at 7:15 p.m., "Allan Quatermain and the Lost City of Gold." Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 5 p.m., "Dazzle." 10 p.m., "Sex and the City: All That Glitters." Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 12:30 p.m., "The Flintestones in Viva Rock Vegas." 2:15 a.m., "Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport."

A docu on the Moro . . .

From p. A30

dence Movement (MIM) in 1968. Matalam died in that house in 1983.

"I contrasted my childhood memories of the house with its present state as an evacuation center," Mangansakan explains. "A house of memory becomes a house of history. The story of these people's lives has been interwoven with mine. Together, we have shared a history."

At first, Mangansakan was very reluctant about how people would react to the documentary. It's not often, after all, that people see a documentary done by a Moro about the Moro.

But he learned that this lends more strength and character to his subject.

"When you see documentaries about the Moro issue on television, they are usually made by an outsider," he says. "The subject is foreign to them."

Because he is a Moro artist from that area, he believes that his documentary has "more heart and soul" than those made by outsiders.

Last year, the documentary won at the 14th Gawad CCP for Independent Film and Video.

'House Under the Crescent Moon' will be screened at the 4th Cinemanila International Film Festival, which will be held Aug. 1-15, 2002 at the Greenbelt Theater in Makati City.

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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
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9	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
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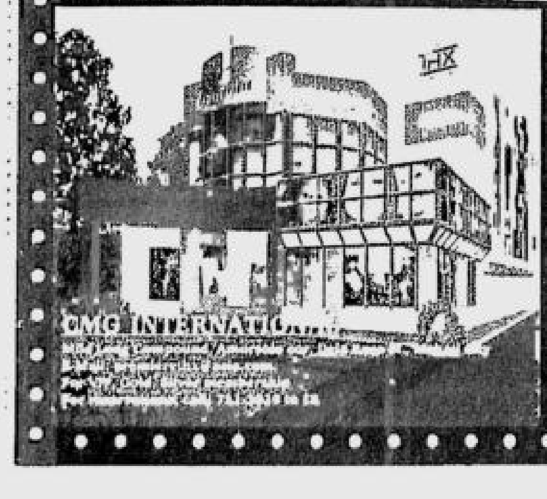

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12	MEGIDDO

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3	GALING MO BABES
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
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6	STUART LITTLE 2
7	WINDTALKERS
8	MEN IN BLACK 2

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10	GALING MO BABES

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2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	JUST VISITING
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6	CROSSROADS
7	GALING MO BABES
8	WINDTALKERS

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2	CLOSED
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7	CLOSED
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536 -7809- 12

1	WINDTALKERS
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	GALING MO BABES
6	STUART LITTLE 2
7	MEGIDDO

Metro East -

Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	WINDTALKERS
3	MEGIDDO
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	GALING MO BABES
6	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
7	WINDTALKERS
8	SORORITY BOYS

Novaliches

935- 3229 - 30

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	GALING MO BABES
8	MEGIDDO

Imus

471 - 8188 / 875- 3838

1	WINDTALKERS
2	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
3	MEGIDDO
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	GALING MO BABES

Bacolod

441- 0453 / 0459

1	WINDTALKERS
2	LEGEND OF TITANIC
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	KAPALIT

Iloilo

336- 8077 - 78

1	WINDTALKERS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	WINDTALKERS

Star Mills-

San Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	PAKISABI NA LANG
2	WINDTALKERS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	WINDTALKERS
6	RESERVED

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Album preview at Culture Club

COVER Me Quick! holds an album preview at Culture Club, Araneta Coliseum Complex, Cubao, Quezon City tomorrow, Aug. 2.

After seeing Cover Me Quick! in their successful SM mall tours, campus and bar shows, the three young, talented artists are set to release their much-awaited debut album, "Road Juan," under Harmony Music, a division of Alpha Records.

Share the adventurous "Road Juan" experience through the group's must-see album preview in a series of shows and catch their music which they call "aggressive pop."

Cover Me Quick! performs at Culture Club on Aug. 9, 16 and 23 and at Marketplace, Taft Ave. on Aug. 30.

Also watch the performances of Popfilter, 7 Foot Junior, 6 Cycle Mind, Milk n' Money, Blue Ketchup with special guest Herbert Hernandez of Moonstar 88 who will jam with the group.

For inquiries, contact Soupstar Entertainment at 0917-3376294.

COVER Me Quick! (from left) bassist Ernie Bangiban, drummer Mark Garchitorena and guitarist vocalist Box.

IMAGE MODEL
Gretchen Barretto is the new image model of Plains and Prints, the clothing line store that caters to every woman's needs. A mid-year inventory sale is ongoing in all Plains and Prints outlets. Buy one apparel and get one free in the buy one-take one promo. Visit Plains and Prints outlets at Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Place Ermita, SM Manila, SM Sucat, SM North Edsa, SM Pampanga, NE Pacific Mall and Shoppesville Plus, Greenhills.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PAKISABI NA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WIND TALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MEGIDDO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	SORORITY BOYS
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN/ SENSUAL FEELING
ODEON	WINDTALKERS
ODEON-2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT / WE WERE SOLDIER
ROBEN	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO / DEVILS MASK
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
REMAR	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
REMAR-2	WINDTALKERS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-2	STUART LITTLE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DOG SOLDIER
CINEMA-2	GAWIN SA DILIM
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-6	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-7	SELDA
CINEMA-8	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-14	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
CINEMA-15	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-2	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-3	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-4	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
CINEMA-5	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-6	WINDTALKERS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

For sreening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 WINDTALKERS	1 MEN IN BLACK 2	1 A RETROSPECTIVE OF GURO DUTT	STUART LITTLE 2 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20	1 WINDTALKERS
	WINDTALKERS			
2 STUART LITTLE 2	WINDTALKERS 3 1:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30	2 THE YIN-YANG MASTER	WINDTALKERS 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20	WINDTALKERS
PAKISABI NA LANG MAHAL KO SIYA	4 MEGIDDO	Onstage	3 AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	3 STUART LITTLE 2
	5 SORORITY BOYS	RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9:00 PM	MEN IN BLACK 2 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
ANG GALING GALING MO BABES	6 STUART LITTLE 2			
	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES		SORORITY BOYS 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	5 MEN IN BLACK 2

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com.

The Ayala malls Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

The award-winning Changchun Acrobatic Troupe from Beijing

MAKATI
August 2 to 4
2pm, 4pm and 6pm
Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG
August 9 to 11
11am, 3pm and 6pm
Activity Center

CEBU
August 16
11:30am, 5pm and 7pm
August 17 & 18
11:30am, 3pm and 6pm
Activity Center

bench/

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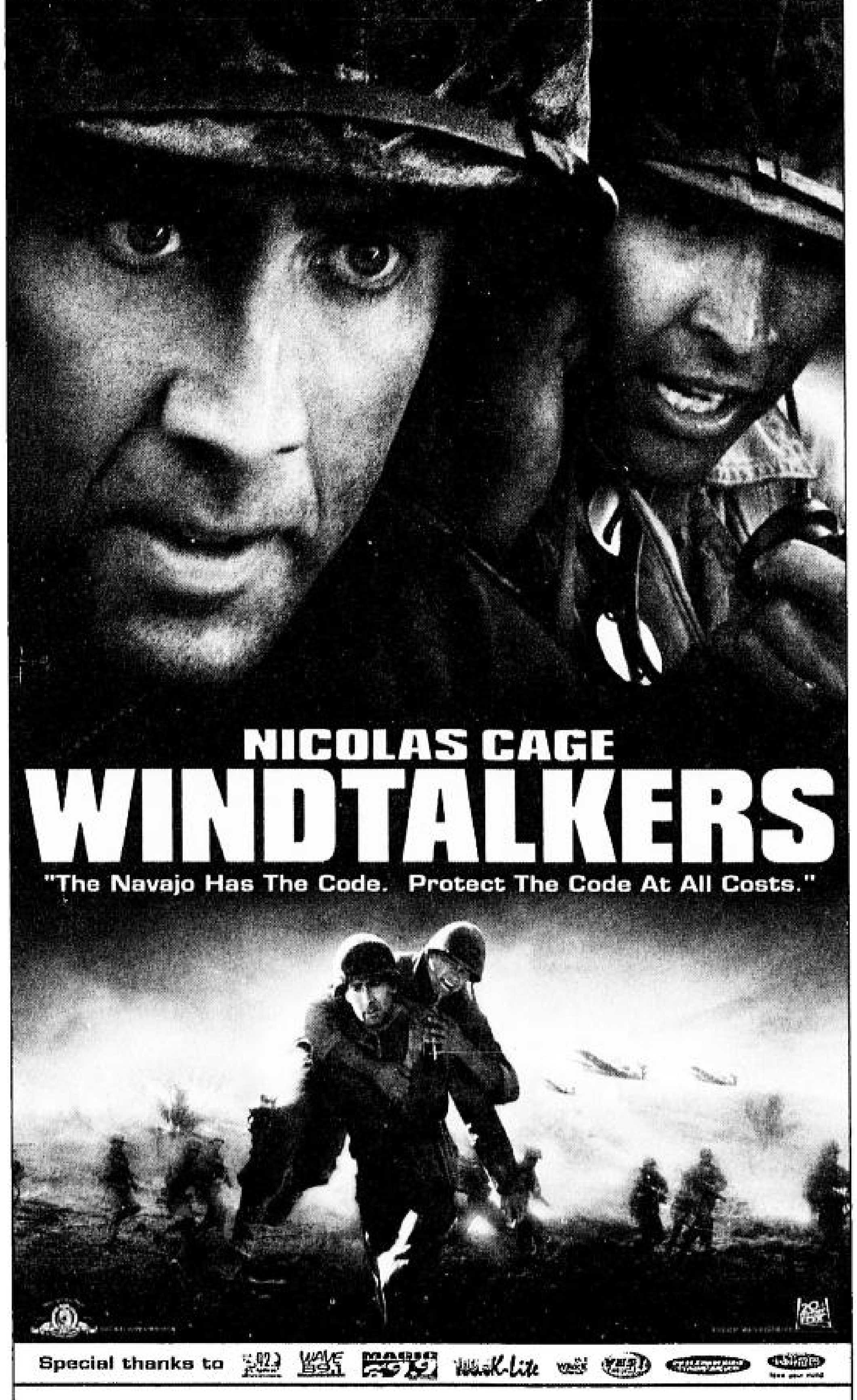
www.ayalaland.com.ph

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FACE/OFF AND M:1-2



NICOLAS CAGE
WINDTALKERS
"The Navajo Has The Code. Protect The Code At All Costs."

Special thanks to

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POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

MEN IN BLACK 2 P 13 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	WINDTALKERS P 13 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10	STUART LITTLE 2 GP 12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40
ANG GALING GALING MO BABES - R 18 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:30	SORORITY BOYS R 18 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	WINDTALKERS P 13 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 WINDTALKERS
11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
P 13

CINEMA 2 STUART LITTLE 2
11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
GP

All Reserved Seating: P120.00
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Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

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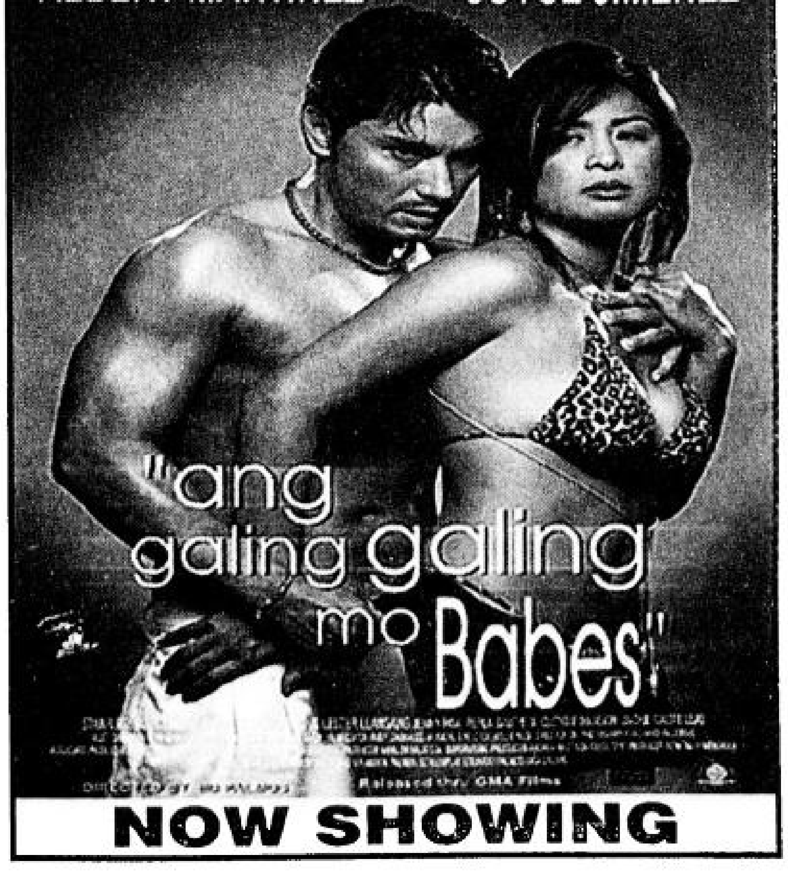
2nd 'BIG ADVENTURE' WEEK !
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

This Season A Little Goes A Long Way

STUART LITTLE 2
StuartLittle.com
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

NAKAKAGIGIL SA GALING . . . KAYA SUPER GALING SA TAKILYA !
MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
IMUS PRODUCTIONS, INC
PRESENTS
ALBERT MARTINEZ and JOYCE JIMENEZ



"ang galing galing mo Babes!"
Released thru GMA Films
NOW SHOWING

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

GUTIERREZ Mangansakan, filmmaker

'HOUSE UNDER THE CRESCENT MOON'

A docu on the Moro, by a Moro

By Moises Charles Hollite
Contributor

WHAT will you do when you return home after 16 years to see your old house turned into an evacuation center?

This very incident became the central theme of "House Under the Crescent Moon," the first documentary made by Moro filmmaker Gutierrez Mangansakan II.

"House Under the Crescent Moon" is the filmmaker's reflection on the Moro people's struggle for their homeland, juxtaposing personal experience with historical events.

After studying in Davao and Manila, Mangansakan returned to Pagalungan in Maguindanao at the height of the war between government troops and the MILF in year 2000.

"Along the highway, you would see many tents sprouting like mushrooms," he says. "Refugees, mostly women and children, crowded these makeshift evacuation centers."

The big shock came when he reached their house. 'There were tents all over the place. It was swarming with more people. You could hear children crying and see the worried faces of their mothers.

"And then I saw our old red house packed with even more evacuees."

He had a mixed reaction. "I had very fond memories of the house as a small boy. I would play with my cousins and siblings on the grounds in the afternoon. But at that moment I felt not joy but pain and suffering."

Armed with a borrowed video camera, Mangansakan filmed the daily life of the refugees for three months. He then met poet Danton Remoto and collaborated with him to write the script for the documentary.

The product is a very personal documentary which recounts his memories with his grandfather, Datu Udtog Matalam, who founded the Mindanao Indepen-

A DOCU/ p. A27

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I met another girl.
Options
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TV shows go off the beaten track

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE NATIONAL Geographic Channel has lined up a number of interesting programs for August. These are our picks. Why not see how they shape up?:

Thursday, Aug. 1 on "Nat Geo Max," 9 p.m., "A Tale of Three Chimps." Host Hayden Turner looks into the lives of three chimps brothers once owned by a circus family in New Zealand.

Buddy, the youngest, is saved from a life captivity in a Samoan zoo. Sonny is a circus chimp whose behavior has become difficult to control. And Mr. Muggins is the spoiled-brat "baby" of a childless couple.

Monday, Aug. 5 on "$100 Taxi Ride," 10 p.m., tours of Cape Town and London. After a spin on the London Eye, taxi driver takes viewers to a restaurant exclusively for cabbies. Then a Zulu Macbeth beckons from a wobbly bridge.

Back on the road, pass the Mother of Parliaments and discover the East End, which could almost be Bangladesh's Dhaka.

Monday, Aug. 12, "Kiwi Buddha," 10 p.m. The fascinating story of how a six-year-old child born in New Zealand of Tibetan parents, is enthroned as a high Tibetan Lama.

Monday, Aug. 19, "A Peking Duck's Tale." Peking Duck is a culinary art form practiced by a long line of chefs. A Peking Duck, an imperial tradition turned icon of popular cuisine, is traditionally fire-roasted in a specially-built oven stocked with wood from local fruit trees.

An experienced chef weighs the duck using a traditional iron rod, judging the ideal weight and temperature of the meat from experience alone.

This program takes viewers from prestigious duck farms surrounding Beijing to some of the most famous restaurant kitchens in China for a taste of this imperial treat.

Tuesday, Aug. 20, "Eating the Uneatable." The mountain tribes in China's Yunan province live in harmony with nature. Food is collected when needed, and rodents, reptiles and insects are deliciously prepared and consumed as nature's gifts. Take a look at the mountain people's ceremonies, hunting practices, and use of insects for medicinal purposes.

Wednesday, Aug. 21, "Dim Sum Odyssey." This documentary takes you on a gourmet tour of Hong Kong, the home of Dim Sum, and introduces you to over 600 varieties of this type of cuisine. It shows the origin of favorites like the Spring Roll, Prawn Dumpings and Barbecue Pork Bun, and the most authentic methods of preparation.

It also highlights expensive, exotic dim sum made from such ingredients as bird's nest and abalone, as well as delicious but inexpensive dim sum viewers can make in their own kitchens.

Friday, Aug. 23, "A Tale of Tofu." The preparation and eating of tofu is China's most favorite obsession. Nutritious, inexpensive and readily available, tofu has bestowed flavor and sustenance on the masses.

Follow the transformation of the humble soya bean into the myriad forms of tofu, including the blood tofu and translucent bean curd skin.

Saturday, Aug. 31, on "People's Planet," 9 p.m., "Transforming the City." In the last century, the world's population has grown fourfold, to six billion. But the populations of our cities have grown fifteenfold and,in the next 50 years, more than three-fourths of humanity could be living in them.

Although cities only take up two percent of the world's land surface, they use about 75 percent of the world's resources, so they have an enormous effect on the planet's environment.

The program takes a look at four cities—Curitiba, Shanghai, Cairo and London—to see how they are dealing with the environmental challenges, from resources and waste to urban farming.

TV SHOWS/ p. A27

BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo · Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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DTI to charge Rustan's unit for misleading ad campaign

PAL seeks relief from P2-B deal with gov't
Page B2

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is set to file formal charges against Shopwise Super Centers Inc. after the agency found prima facie evidence against the subsidiary of the Tantoco family's Rustan group showing that it misled hundreds of consumers into trooping into its stores with its latest advertising campaign.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said a probe by the DTI-National Capital Region on the Shopwise brouhaha showed that the series of ads for the Shopwise Wild Deals 2 deviated from the text of the ad that the DTI-NCR approved for release.

Cristobal said Shopwise would be charged with multiple violations of "False, Deceptive and Misleading Advertisement" under the Consumer Act of the Philippines for teaser ads released from July 18 to 20.

In a statement, Shopwise maintained that all advertising used for the Wild Deals promo complied with DTI rules that required at least one advertising material would contain the complete mechanics, duration, prizes, and coverage under DTI-Permit No. 1323, series of 2002.

It said there was never any intention to mislead or confuse the public since the details of the mechanics were released on the start of the promo.

The questioned ads stoked shoppers' interest with the hefty price cuts on a brand new pickup truck, digital video disc players, and food products. The teaser ads did not contain the mechanics of the promo (which came out in the fourth installment of the series on July 21 when the promo kicked off) but only advised shoppers to read posters for details in small font.

Hundreds of shoppers, who did not read the final installment of the ad campaign, were incensed to find out that they had to compete with other shoppers in hoarding purchase coupons before they could buy a pickup for P500,000 or a DVD player for P1,500.

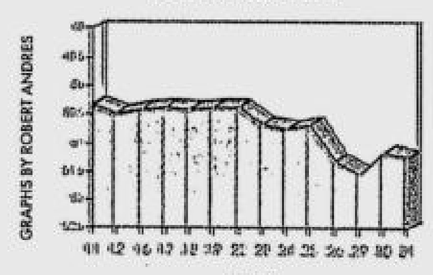
Since the case was initiated by the DTI-NCR sans a complainant, Shopwise would only be liable for a fine ranging from P500 to P130,000 unless consumers who were infuriated by the ad would come forward and claim damages.

Under the Consumer Act, the Shopwise case would first undergo mediation where both parties would sit down to settle the issue. Without a settlement, the case would be elevated to the DTI legal affairs arbitration.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 51.255 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 31, 2002

¥ 119.82 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 31, 2002

GOLD: $305.40/305.90
per ounce Hong Kong, July 31, 2002

STOCK MARKET

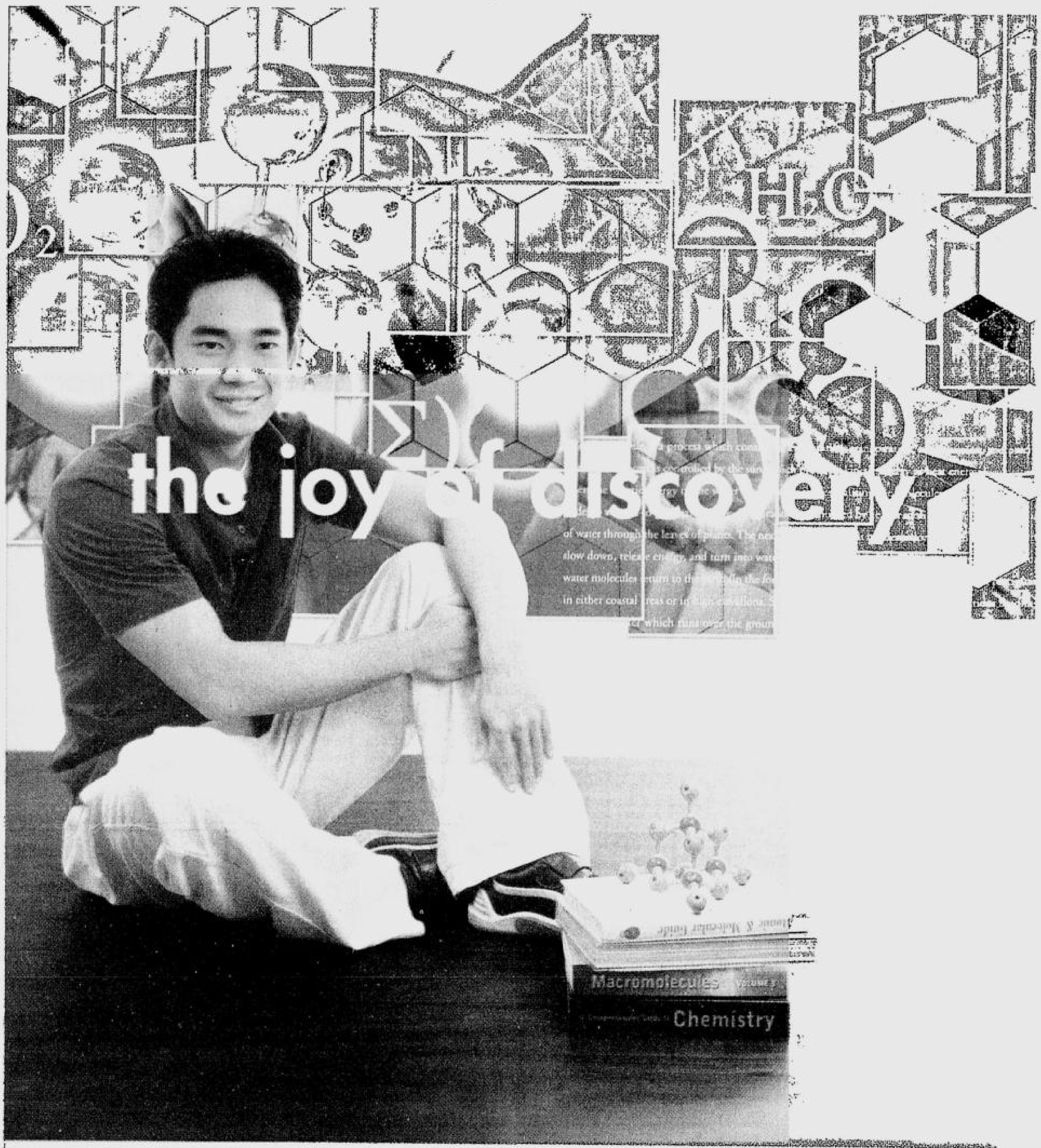
Stocks up

STOCKS rose a shade higher yesterday after the government renewed its commitment to meet the budget deficit target for the year.

But analysts said investors were still not totally convinced and would rather wait for more first-half corporate results to provide trading direction.

The main index closed 0.85 point or 0.08 percent up at 1,123.24 points.

Value turnover dropped to P344.25 billion from Tuesday's P488.05 million. Decliners beat gainers 31 to 18, and there were 36 stocks unchanged. *Reuters*



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   a. P1,000 off on any Scanjet when you buy a DJ 656.
   b. P1,500 off on any Scanjet when you buy a DJ 845 and DJ 920.
   c. P2,000 off on any Scanjet when you buy a DJ 948, 960, 990 and 1125.
3. The discount is valid only where the HP Deskjet was bought.
4. Promotion period is from June 15 to August 15, 2002.
5. Discounts are not convertible to cash.
6. Discounts on HP Scanjets are valid until October 15, 2002.

www.hp.com
hotline no.: 1800 1331 4488
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2254, Series of 2002.

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*Fortune Magazine, July 2001
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FDC denies insider trading charge

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOTIANUN family's Filinvest Development Corp. yesterday refuted allegations made by the Securities and Exchange Commission that it was involved in the insider trading of housing subsidiary Filinvest Land Inc.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange, FDC president Josephine Yap denied the regulators' suspicions that it had used insider information to profit from the trading of FLI shares early this year.

Yap maintained that "all actions taken by the company ultimately redounded to the best interest of all the shareholders of FLI and were all properly disclosed to the SEC."

"FDC has referred the matter to its legal counsel for study and appropriate response," the statement said.

The statement noted that FDC and FLI were among the few property companies that had withstood the financial crisis and continued to grow despite the difficult economic conditions.

It also stressed that the group had paid more than P12.5 billion in debts, mostly in the form of dollar convertible bonds, that fell due in the last nine months.

The SEC said on Tuesday that its investigation of FLI yielded documentary evidence to implicate FDC in insider trading. The report detailed how FDC sold FLI securities 39 times while in possession of material non-public information, particularly on the conversion price of P1.2 billion worth of convertible bonds issued to Singaporean investor Reco Grandhomes early this year.

The corporate watchdog said that because FDC sold at a much higher price than the price of FLI after the bond disclosure, FDC either avoided a loss or made a profit of P20 million.

FDC was given 15 days to review and refute the SEC's findings with supporting documents.

It was earlier reported that a lot of investors lost money from the trading of FLI shares and blamed the company's alleged failure to disclose significant information that had affected the trading of the stock.

FLI, whose shares rose early this year, announced on Feb. 5 that it had approved the issuance of the convertible bonds at a price range of P1.70 to P1.875. The low conversion price disappointed investors, who later dumped FLI shares.

For its part, FLI explained that while negotiations with the foreign investor had been going on for months, the deal was finalized only in February.

FLI is one of the country's largest residential real estate developers, with property projects in Metro Manila and the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Quezon area. It also owns a 20-percent stake in Filinvest Alabang Inc., developer of the 244-hectare Filinvest Corporate City, Festival Supermall, Northgate Cyberzone, the Palms Country Club and various high-rise residential developments all located in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

PAL seeks relief from ₱2-B deal with government

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE LUCIO Tan Group of Companies has asked a Makati court to release Philippine Airlines from its P2-billion put option obligation with the government and five of its financial institutions, citing as ground the airline's poor financial condition.

The group filed the civil case with the Makati Regional Trial Court on July 23. It invoked Article 1267 of the Civil Code that provided that a company could be released from its obligations when honoring these would be too difficult for the firm.

The case was filed by the companies holding the taipan's shares in PAL—Ascot Holdings and Equities, Cube Factor and Equities, Sierra Holdings and Equities, Network Holdings and Equities, and Pol Holdings Inc.

Land Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves, however, said the government would start going after two other Tan companies that guaranteed Tan in the six-year-old put option deal that expired last May 7.

"PAL has filed a case against the government as its defense. This will allow us now to start running after its two guarantors, Asia Brewery Inc. and Fortune Tobacco," said Teves whose bank was one of the five government financial institutions involved in the put option deal.

Teves said the Office of the Solicitor General was consolidating a second demand letter that would be served to the airline once signed by all agencies concerned.

The government, the GFIs and Lucio Tan signed a put option agreement on April 1996 that required the taipan to buy at P5 per share the remaining shares of the state in PAL six years after the deal's signing. The value of the put option was estimated at about P2 billion.

Of the 4.26-percent interest of the state in PAL, the national government accounts for 0.96 percent in the airline. Government Service Insurance System holds 1.37 percent; Landbank, 0.69 percent; Development Bank of the Philippines and AFP-Retirement Service Benefits System with 0.31 percent each, and Philippine National Bank, 0.46 percent.

Tan, in an ambush interview last July 18, said that PAL wanted to negotiate with the government for relief on its obligations.

Sources said Tan, through his various firms, used to own 50.04 percent of PR Holdings Inc., the company that used to own PAL before its equity structure was reconstituted.

MACAPAGAL-ARROY

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, assisted by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, led yesterday's groundbreaking of Honda Motor Philippines Inc.'s P1.0-billion state-of-the-art transmission plant at the Laguna Technopark in Biñan. With the President and Roxas were (from left) Kuniki Nito of Shimizu Corp., Honda Motor Co. Ltd. senior managing director Katsuro Suzuki and Laguna Governor Teresita Lazaro.

Honda puts up ₱1-B manual transmission plant in Laguna

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HONDA Motor Co. Ltd., Japan's No. 2 vehicle maker, is planning to export completely built up (CBU) units from the Philippines after making its Sta. Rosa, Laguna plant the production hub for manual transmission of Honda vehicles sold in Asia, North America and Europe.

In a speech during the groundbreaking of the transmission plant yesterday, Honda senior managing director Katsuro Suzuki said: "The export of manual transmission is only a stepping stone. Our next step is to identify a vehicle to locally manufacture and export CBU to Asean countries and realize a balanced trade in the coming Asean Free Trade Area."

Honda is bidding to become the second Philippine assembler to go into CBU exports after Ford Motor Co. which, through its $1.2-billion Aico project, is planning to produce Ford Laser sedans and Escape sport utility vehicles in the Philippines to be swapped with Ford Ranger pick-up trucks from Thailand. Ford Philippines is expected to ship out 65,000 vehicles to Thailand and Indonesia over the next five years.

The Department of Trade and Industry is currently overhauling the Motor Vehicle Development Program with an eye on having at least two or three CBU exporters in the medium term.

Honda, which invested an initial P1 billion for the first phase of the plant, is expected to complete the second phase of the project by the fourth quarter of 2003. The expansion phase is expected to jack up annual capacity from 10,000 units to 140,000 units and boost annual exports to $65 million.

Suzuki said Honda had started shipping transmission units to Thailand last month and would soon export to Malaysia and Indonesia.

An 'inadvertent' mistake, Gokongwei tells SEC

By Elena R. Torrijos

TAIPAN John Gokongwei Jr. reiterated yesterday that his flagship firm, JG Summit Holdings Inc., was not a party to his $925-million deal with Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., a fact that, he said, was "inadvertently missed" in disclosure papers sent to regulators in New York and Manila.

In a letter, Gokongwei's counsel, Perry Pe, said there were erasures in the copy of the memorandum of agreement sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission, as the Gokongwei group and First Pacific had to "rush" their deal to comply with the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

"The whole rush was because First Pacific had to disclose the deal to the appropriate regulatory agency—the Hong Kong Stock Exchange—the following day," Pe said.

On June 4, First Pacific signed a memorandum of agreement relinquishing its controlling stakes in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Bonifacio Land Corp. to a $925-million joint venture that the Gokongwei group would control.

Last week, the SEC ordered the Gokongwei group to explain conflicting and misleading information in the disclosure papers it submitted to regulators in New York and Manila.

In the copy of the memorandum of agreement sent to the SEC, the words "JG Summit Holdings Inc." were erased in the last page, although it was stated in the first page that the deal was between JG Summit and First Pacific.

Government regulators pointed out that as a listed firm, JG Summit, if it had been a party to the deal with First Pacific, should have publicly disclosed details of the transaction.

The Gokongwei group has maintained that JG Summit is not a party to the deal and is, therefore, not bound to make any disclosure to the SEC or the stock market.

Pe, Gokongwei's counsel, told the SEC that Gokongwei himself crossed out "JG Summit" on the signature page of the memorandum of agreement when he signed it because he did not consider his flagship firm as a party to his deal with First Pacific.

Pe also took exception to suggestions that the crossing out of the words "JG Summit Holdings Inc." was done after the fact.

"If this was the intention of our client, then it would have been easier for our client to re-execute the MOA and delete altogether references to JG Summit," he said.

He also explained that the "JG Group" referred to in the deal was John Gokongwei himself, not JG Summit.

RFM drops plan to sell Swift, shifts business thrust

FOOD and beverage firm RFM Corp. has dropped plans to sell its poultry unit, Swift Foods Inc.

RFM president and chief executive Jose Ma. Concepcion said in a meeting of RFM stockholders that RFM would instead "revitalize" Swift.

Swift is RFM's biggest remaining business following the sale of its profitable soft-drinks unit, Cosmos Bottling Corp., to Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

RFM no longer plans to divest from Swift because it believes it will not get a good price for its poultry unit given poor market conditions, Ramon Lopez, executive assistant to the president, said in an interview.

Concepcion told RFM stockholders that Swift's business model had been revised to focus on outsourcing to make its operations more cost-efficient.

"The objective is not market dominance but maintaining profitable volumes," he said.

RFM has already shut down Swift's dressing plants. Its only remaining investment is in terms of operating capital.

Swift's chicken farms, meanwhile, are being converted into residential areas by RFM's property units.

Swift's strategy is now to rely on outsourcing of poultry products, of which 60 to 70 percent comes from Cagayan de Oro, where production costs are lower, while the rest comes from northeastern Luzon.

Swift has scaled down its chicken production to 50 million heads this year from 70 million the previous year to reach profitable volumes.

Last year, Swift's chicken business yielded P6 billion in revenues for RFM, 14 percent lower from a year earlier.

The next biggest revenue earners in Swift's portfolio were branded foods and flour products, which pumped in P1.77 billion and P1.74 billion.

San Miguel Corp., the country's biggest food and beverage firm, earlier expressed interest in acquiring Swift.

There were also reports that tycoon Lucio Tan was keen on buying into Swift, which controls about 21 percent of the domestic poultry market, ***Doris C. Dumlao***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, July 31, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	156,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.5	48	47	47	572,000
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	28	27	27.5	412,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.1	1.14	76,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	33.5	33.5	274,100
Philippine National Bank	31.5	31.5	29.5	29.5	47,100
Security Bank Corp.	14	14	14	14	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	18	17.5	18	68,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1250	1250	1250	1250	150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	50,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	930	930	905	905	280
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	22.5	22.25	22.25	5,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	1,410,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	515	515	510	510	8,990
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	1,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.028	0.026	0.027	8,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	2.8	2.8	12,000
Piltel	0.3	0.33	0.28	0.33	1,800,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	315	317.5	312.5	315	62,080
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	3,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	900
Manila Electric Co. B	28.5	28.5	28	28	1,024,300
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	1,884,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.8	1.74	1.8	3,285,000'
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	111,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	137,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	890,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	115,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	1,500
RFM Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46.5	45.5	46	133,500
San Miguel Corp. B	50.5	51.5	50.5	51	378,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	6,534,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1,070,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	5,200
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	600,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,280,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	5,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	1,322,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13	13.25	12.5	13	1,544,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
Ionics Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.2	5.2	123,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	268,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.66	0.67	0.65	0.67	1,800,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	3,370,000
Music Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	140,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	270,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.73	330,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22	22	22	169,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.003	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.7	5.7	5	5	4,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.2	6	6.2	8,470,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	131,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	490,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2	2.02	1.86	1.94	11,228,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
City & Land Developers	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	61,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	9,659,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	19,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	25,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	101,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	5,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.033	0.035	0.033	0.035	300,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	90,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,675,630	53,844,735.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	48,432,370	159,614,510.00
PRO	30,089,000	130,061,050.00
Mining	46,200,000	202,200.00
OIL	109,390,000	402,700.00
GRAND TOTALS:	235,787,000	344,125,195.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	446.39	DOWN 6.59
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,530.26	UP 3.76
PRO	533.92	UP 5.31
Mining	1,163.42	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.39	UP 0.02
All Shares Index	646.64	DOWN 15.41
Composite	1,123.24	UP 0.85

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18; NO. OF DECLINES: 31; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 85; NO. OF TRADES: 1,618

CURRENCIES

July 31, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.016363	1.000000	51.2870
Japan	Yen	0.008458	0.008322	0.4268
United Kingdom	Pound	1.599858	1.574100	80.7309
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130310	0.128212	6.5756
Switzerland	Franc	0.685990	0.674946	34.6160
Canada	Dollar	0.645638	0.635243	32.5797
Singapore	Dollar	0.576333	0.567054	29.0825
Australia	Dollar	0.553575	0.544662	27.9341
Bahrain	Dinar	2.696068	2.652661	136.0470
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271031	0.266667	13.6766
Brunei	Dollar	0.573503	0.564270	28.9397
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024200	0.023810	1.2211
UAE	Dirham	0.276734	0.272279	13.9644
Korea	Won	0.000863	0.000849	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.983900	50.4613
Argentina	Real	0.279220	0.274725	14.0898
Brazil	Real	0.312247	0.307220	15.7564
Denmark	Kroner	0.134645	0.132477	6.7943
India	Rupee	0.020895	0.020559	1.0544
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267500	0.263193	13.4984
Mexico	New Peso	0.104382	0.102701	5.2672
New Zealand	Dollar	0.477884	0.470190	24.1146
Norway	Kroner	0.134170	0.132010	6.7704
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017154	0.016878	0.8656
South Africa	Rand	0.100510	0.098892	5.0719
Sweden	Kroner	0.108135	0.106394	5.4566
Syria	Pound	0.019773	0.019455	0.9978
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030285	0.029797	1.5282
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000761	0.000749	0.0384

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Celebrating 151 Years of Philippine Banking

Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), the country's first bank, celebrates the 151st year of its founding today. It will be marked by a showcase on customer service–centric banking and an anniversary mass at the bank's head office on Ayala Avenue in Makati City. The week–long programme of activties will also be marked by service and excellence awards for employees in continuation of BPI's current emphasis on enhancing customer service.

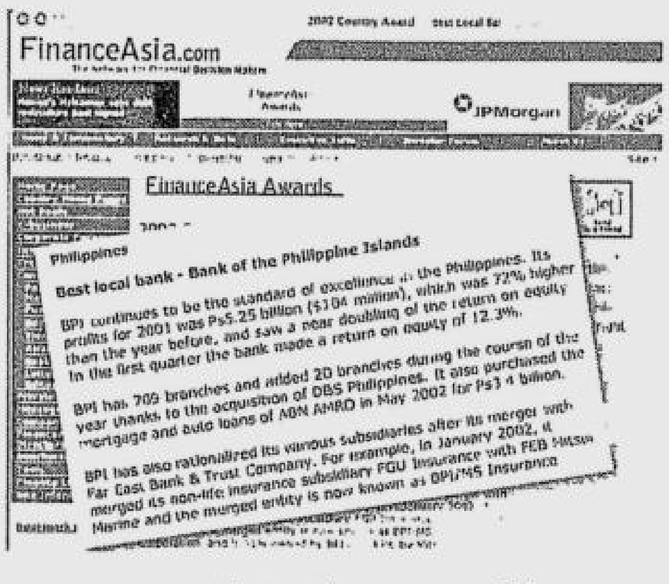
The celebration comes amid recognition of BPI by various reputable organizations and rating agencies overseas as the yardstick for Philippine banks.

Last month, BPI was voted the best bank in the Philippines in the *Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2002. Euromoney* magazine is a leading international financial publication and gives out this award each year. Also this year, BPI was chosen as the best local bank for 2002 by *FinanceAsia*, a regional financial publication based in Hongkong. Earlier, the bank was also voted as the best emerging markets bank for 2002 by *Global Finance*, a L based financial publication.

BPI was also chosen as best bank by *The Asset* and *Asiamoney*, both 'Hongkong-based financial publications.

The bank was also the choice of executives in Asia as the most admired financial institution in the Philippines, based on a survey conducted by the regional *Far Eastern Economic Review* (FEER).

Overseas publications and agencies have consistently recognized BPI for its leadership in overall corporate governance. BPI plays a leading role in the areas of consumer banking, corporate lending, trust and asset management and bancassurance.



FinanceAsia.com

2002 Country Award · Best Local Ba

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Philippines

Best local bank - Bank of the Philippine Islands

BPI continues to be the standard of excellence in the Philippines. Its profits for 2001 was Ps5.25 billion ($104 million), which was 72% higher than the year before, and saw a near doubling of the return on equity. In the first quarter the bank made a return on equity of 12.3%.

BPI has 709 branches and added 20 branches during the course of the year thanks to the acquisition of DBS Philippines. It also purchased the mortgage and auto loans of ABN AMRO in May 2002 for Ps3.4 billion.

BPI has also rationalised its various subsidiaries after its merger with Far East Bank & Trust Company. For example, in January 2002, it merged its non-life insurance subsidiary FGU Insurance with FEB Mitsui Marine and the merged entity is now known as BPI/MS Insurance

BPI ended the first semester of 2002 with P2.7 billion in net profits and a 10.8% return on equity. Last year, BPI posted net profits of P5.25 billion, the biggest income figure achieved by any bank operating in the Philippines and is 72% higher than its 2000 performance.

BPI's overall position has been strengthened by its recent acquisition of the P3.4 billion consumer loan business of ABN-Amro Bank, the local unit of the Netherlands-based ABN-Amro NV.

In 2001, BPI's consumer loan portfolio increased 4.5% despite contractions in the banking industry's overall consumer loan business. On this score, BPI has maintained a sharp focus on the relatively low-risk home lending market.

BPI has also completed the integration of DBS Bank Philippines into BPI Family Bank. BPIFB is BPI's thrift bank subsidiary, while DBS Bank Philippines is a local bank unit of the Development Bank of Singapore (the largest bank in Southeast Asia).

Today, BPI has the largest network of branches and ATMs under one roof. In 1999, this was complemented by *BPI Direct* — the first internet banking service in the Philippines.

The bank continues to be the undisputed leader in trust and asset management. With over P100 billion in trust funds under its care, BPI's asset management group is actively involved in the asset management industry's market reform initiatives to bring the industry up to par with world standards. The adoption of a marked-to-market valuation is the first step towards this direction, which BPI is pursuing in partnership with the Banker's Association of the Philippines, the Trust Officers Association of the Philippines (TOAP), and the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*.

BPI recently combined the operations of FGU Insurance Corporation with the FEB Mitsui Marine Insurance Company, which it co-owns with Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Corporation.

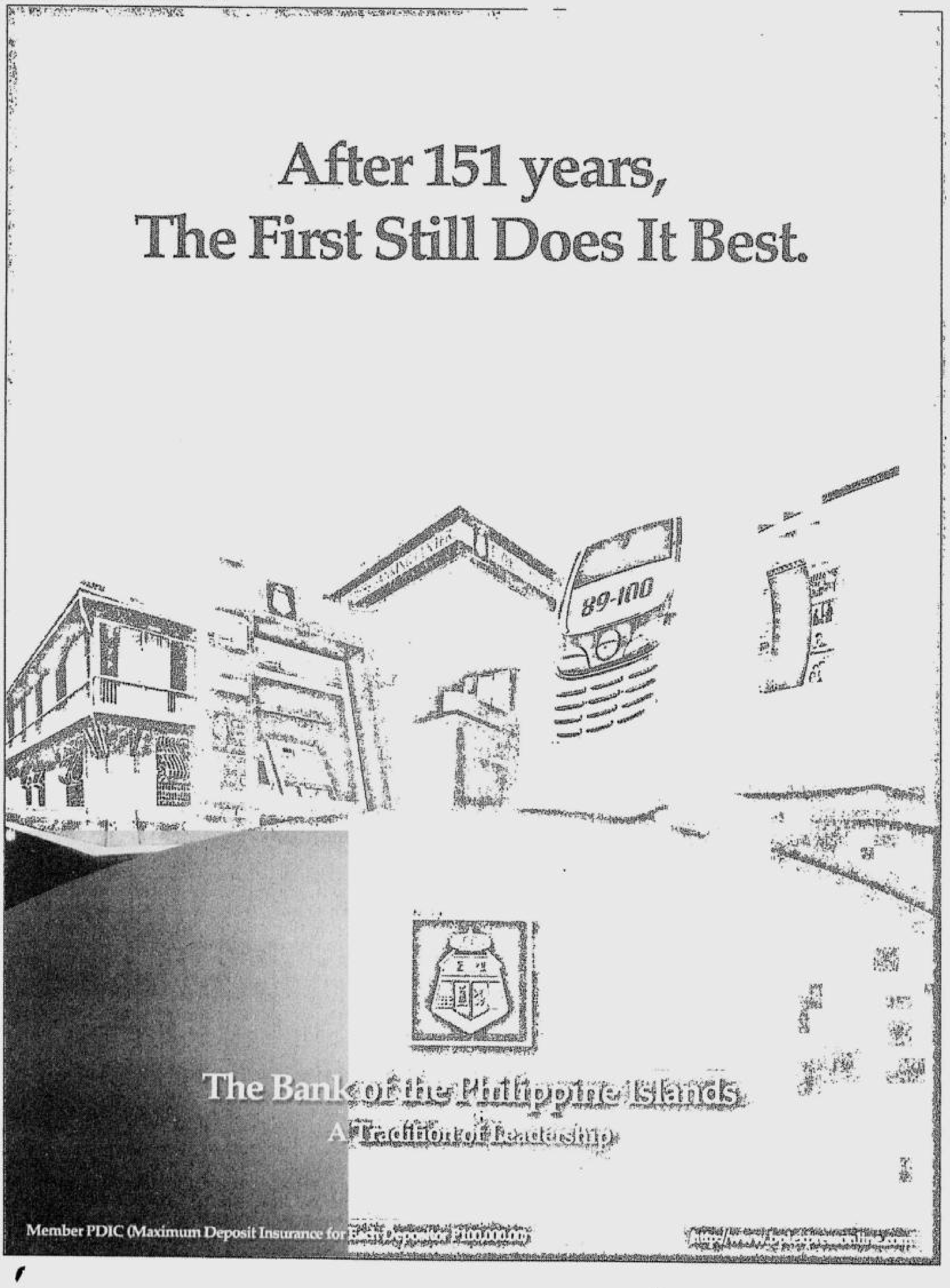
This reflects a shift in emphasis towards economies of scale in the non-life insurance industry.

The merger of the two companies has created the BPI/MS Insurance Corporation, now one of the largest and highest capitalized non-life insurance firms in the Philippines. BPI's partner in this joint venture is the Tokyo-based Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Corporation, one of the largest non-life insurance companies in the world.

> *"...best positioned to take advantage of a cyclical recovery in the Philippines."*

As a bancassurance firm, BPI also owns other major insurance and health care businesses.

With a strong growth pattern amid a very challenging business environment, BPI has been benchmarked by international financial institutions as "one that is best positioned to take advantage of a cyclical recovery in the Philippines."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* * *

BPI ExpressCash
...ay sa Pag-Unlad!

BPI Express Cash used for safer, more convenient microfinancing operations

BPI, the first bank to run outreach programs in local microfinance, has tied up with the Tulay Sa Pag-Unlad (TSPI) Development Corp., a leading micro-finance organization. BPI is offering its Express Cash card to TSPI's 40,000 borrowers, mostly women micro-entrepreneurs, as a more convenient loans delivery vehicle. This is a first in the micro-finance industry and BPI's contribution for this year's Corporate Social Responsibility Week, last July 1 to 8.

BPI Family Bank's Antipolo-Masinag branch was selected to pilot this joint effort. TSPI issues about 2,500 checks to its borrowers every six months from this branch alone. Thus, the BPI Express Cash card will function as an electronic check for TSPI borrowers.

All loan proceeds will be credited by TSPI to the Express Cash cards of its beneficiaries. The proceeds can be withdrawn in any BPI or BPI Family Bank ATM nationwide.

The use of the Express Cash card as an electronic check is another feature which demonstrates the product's social use—that of providing borrowers with a more convenient medium of transaction.

Loan beneficiaries can withdraw loan proceeds anytime and not be limited to banking hours.

Express Cash saves TSPI from the tedious task of regularly cutting a large number of checks.

* * *

Express Advice offers easier access to BPI products, services

On the occasion of its 151st anniversary, BPI has un-veiled Express Advice, a holistic package of the world of online round-the-clock products and services available to BPI customers wherever they may be, and whatever their needs.

For instance, the Express Advice item on banking anytime, anywhere includes BPI Expressonline where by simply logging on to **www.bpiexpressonline.com**, a customer can inquire about his balance, transfer funds, and get information on the other BPI products and services. Through BPI Express Phone, the client can access a complete line of banking transactions.

The Express Advice package applicable for all kinds of cus-tomer needs includes but is not limited to Express Remittance for overseas Filipinos; BPI Trade for stock trading online, and BPI Asset Management for alter-native investment options; BPI/MS Fire Insurance for home protection or BPI/MS Express Auto Insurance through BPI Card's S.I.P. with no cash out required; and Check-free Payments for hassle-free payments to over 100 merchants. The same BPI Card's S.I.P. can be used for buying appliances, jewelry, fur-niture, vacation packages or fit-ness programs in up to 24 months payment schedule.

For moms-on-the-move, Express Teller's Express Payment System allows cashless payments for groceries, school supplies and other family needs at full sale price. For prepaid phone users, BPI Express Cash allows auto-loading of their Globe prepaid phone; Express Cash also can be used in over 20,000 MasterCard electronic establishments nationwide.

BPI's Mobile Banking Service allows people-on-the-go to check their account balance through their WAP phone or by texting. Motorists can even fuel up through the Petron-BPI MasterCard facility.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
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Megacenter the Mall marks 4th year; activities lined up

MEGACENTER The Mall in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija celebrated its 4th anniversary yesterday. To date, Megacenter the Mall is the only mall in the central plain of Luzon that is at par with the world-class standards of the shopping mall industry.

Since it opened its doors in July 1999, Megacenter the Mall has skyrocketed to the peak of mainstream success not only among the people of Cabanatuan City but among the denizens of neighboring cities and municipalities as well. The popularity and well-respected reputation of the mall is attributed to its serious commitment to excellence and quality service.

For the past four years Megacenter the Mall is being run and operated by Chas Realty and Development Corp. - a versatile and highly competent group of two generations of entrepreneurs. The corporation is composed of the noted families of Huibonhoa, Tankeh, Conceptions, and the Guinagonas.

The basic idea of Chas Realty and Development Corp. in the conception of the mall is to provide the people of Northern Luzon, particularly those living in Cabanatuan City and nearby municipalities, a chance to experience the luxury of a first-class and top-of-the-line shopping mall at any given time of the day. Today, the people of Cabanatuan City need not travel for hours just to shop in Manila because of the successful positioning of Megacenter the Mall at the forefront of the trade and commerce industry of Northern Luzon.

The mall was constructed using state-of-the-art materials, furnished with energy-efficient centralized air-conditioning system, deep-well water supply as well as elevators, escalators, communications and stand-by power equipment.

Today there are two classifications of establishments within the complex. First are the anchor establishments - those that draw and attract clientele to the mall, which are long-term lease holders occupying large areas. The anchor establishments of the mall are Chas Cinema, Poulex Supermarket, and Poulex Department Store. The junior anchor establishments are Robinsons Handyman, Solar Sales Center, and the newly opened Wonderpark Amusement Center.

Second are the specialty establishments that include big names such as Odyssey, Blue Brothers, Leaveland, Rusty Lopez, Oxygen, Bench, Penshoppe, Nokia and Shoe Square among many others. Service establishments include CD Station, Aeon's Studio, David's Salon, Ideal Vision and Mercury Drug Store to name a few. Some of the fast food and casual dining establishments are Jollibee, Greenwich, Ilonggo Grille, Mr. Donut and McDonald's.

In the coming months more establishments and name brand outlets are expected to open in the mall.

As a way of thanking the people of Cabanatuan City for their endless support to the Megacenter the Mall, Chas Realty and Development Corp. has whipped up an exciting lineup of activities for its 4th anniversary. On July 31 Concert Queen Pops Fernandez staged a mini-concert in line with the provincial tour of her latest album "The Way I Feel Inside". A mall-wide sale is also ongoing until Aug. 4. Poulex Supermarket will be having in-house anniversary activities from Aug. 1 to 2. On Aug. 3, Yes! Yan ang Entertainment Show will be having the Megacenter Combo Trio Promo 3rd draw. On Aug. 4, "Batibot Children's Show" will be visiting the mall. On Aug. 10 Yes! Yan ang Entertainment Show mounts "Learn and Shop at Mega" focusing on a hand and foot spa demo courtesy of Freshaire. On Aug. 17 Yes! Yan ang Entertainment Show will conduct a hairstyle and make-up demo courtesy of David's Salon.

For more on Megacenter the Mall and its upcoming events call (044) 463-1618 or (044) 600-3788.

Memorandum of Agreement
Equitable PCI BANK

URC, EQUITABLE PCIBANK TEAM UP

Due to the success of last year's Jack n' Jill Kiss Kiss and A Million promo, URC group product manager Marcia Gokongwei (second from left) recently signed an MOA with Equitable PCIBank vice president Dennis Velasquez (third from left) for the upcoming Jack 'n Jill Kiss Kiss 2 Million promo. Last year, URC and Equitable PCIBank gave away millions of instant cash prizes to Jack 'n Jill snackers nationwide. This year, they have teamed up to give away over P15 million in cash prizes to lucky Kiss Kiss winners. Cash prizes may be claimed at any Equitable PCIBank branch nationwide. Also shown are URC and Equitable PCIBank representatives (from left) URC assistant brand manager Mahar Kim Manalo and EPCIB senior vice president Rolando Rodriguez.

ROSAL SUPPORTS CARE

Actress and civic worker Rosa Rosal has lent her support to CARE (Cash Assurance and Recovery for Elders), the first accident insurance for Filipino elders. She is shown here during the contract signing with AIG Marketing Corp. general manager Carl Gustini and senior manager Veck Alonzo. With them are 141 Philippines group account director Lou dela Pena and account manager Elaine Meris.

AJI-NO-MOTO IS A SUPERBRAND

Aji-No-Moto Super Seasoning recently won its fourth successive Reader's Digest SuperBrand Award in recognition of being the most preferred seasoning brand in the Philippines, and in all of Asia. SuperBrand ratings are obtained in an annual regional survey among Reader's Digest readers in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and in the Philippines. Aji-No-Moto Super Seasoning was selected based on quality, value, trustworthiness, strong image, and understanding of customer needs. Andrew Ong, marketing manager of Ajinomoto Philippines Corp., receives a SuperBrand award for Ajinomoto Super Seasoning from Reader's Digest advertising director-Philippines Lilet Camara-Yan.

Read and Fly promo of Dymocks Booksellers

THE RAFFLE of the Read Your Way to an Aussie Holiday promotion of Dymocks Booksellers was drawn on June 30 at the Coffee Republic Café. More than 10,000 book lovers participated in the bookstore's first major promotion.

The grand prize went to Maria JT Asis. She won a round trip ticket to Australia with hotel accommodations for one. The second prize of P2,000 gift certificate went to Gerardo Beltran, and the third prize of P1,000 gift certificates went to Ace Gabriel. P100 gift certificates were given as consolation prizes to 50 winners.

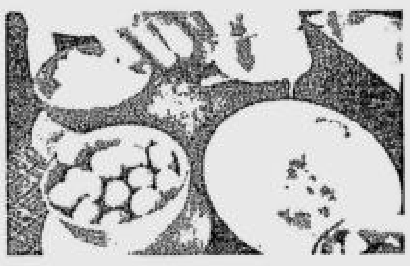
Dymocks Booksellers located at the Padre Faura Wing of Robinsons Place Mall in Ermita, together with Coffee Republic Café, would like to thank SWI International Inc., Qantas Airlines and The Australian Tourist Commission for the valuable support they provided in making this promotion a huge success. It would also like to thank all the book lovers who participated and made Dymocks Booksellers their favorite bookstore.

Product FILES

Celebrating Swiss National Day traditionally

THREE Swiss states formed a union on Aug. 1, 1291 and created the nation of Switzerland. Since then, for 711 years, Aug. 1 has been a day of great celebration for every Swiss national.

The Old Swiss Inn continues this tradition and celebrates Swiss National Day in grand style. For August, Old Swiss Inn features a special menu of hearty Swiss specialties and gives 10 percent discount on all fondues and selected Swiss wine.



As a bonus, enjoy melted Raclette cheese and its traditional sidings of baby potatoes, pickled onions, and gherkins free today, Aug. 1, during lunch and dinner. Just order one main course item from the special Swiss menu.

Call Old Swiss Inn Makati, the Olympia Courtyard Suites, Makati Avenue (beside Peninsula Hotel) at 818-8251, 818-0098, or 812-1010 local 511 or 512, or Old Swiss Inn Manila, the Garden Plaza Hotel and Suites, Paco, Manila, at 521-3002, 522-4835 local 115 for reservations.

BITS Clips

Masses for St. Philomena

ON THE occasion of the feast day of St. Philomena on Aug. 11, a Novena of Holy Masses will be offered by Fr. Cesar Bujat at Oru Lady of Fatima Parish, Gen. Capinpin corner Rodriguez Streets, Bangkal, Makati City from Aug. 2 to 10. On weekdays, the rosary and novena prayers start at 6:15 a.m. followed by the Holy Mass. On Sundays, at 5:45 a.m. For details, call Lucy or Tita at 843-4639. At the Most Holy Redeemer Parish on Malac Street, Masambong, Del Monte, Quezon City, Fr. Jojo Zerrudo will offer a Novena of Holy Masses from Aug. 2 to 10. For details, call Monica at 365-1011 or 412-2560. The National Center of the Universal Living Rosary Association of Saint Philomena is located at 430 Mayon Street, 1114 Quezon City.

Cassiopeia E-200 orientation

BUSINESS Plus Marketing, exclusive distributor of Casio calculator and IT products, will hold a Cassiopeia E-200 Pocket PC 2002 product orientation and workshop on Friday, Aug. 2, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at Room 2503-B (Western Group of Companies office), PSE-Tektite West Tower, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. This event aims to enable Cassiopeia E-200 users and enthusiasts to maximize the full capabilities of the Cassiopeia Pocket PC 2002. Experts from Casio and Pocket PC Users Philippines will be on hand to teach workshop participants techniques on using the Cassiopeia E-200 beyond personal information management level, like wireless connectivity (via Bluetooth/IR) to access enterprise servers or local ISPs and send or receive e-mails, or synchronize with databases. For reservations, call 637-6422 locals 501-503.

PSGS-MMC, UNILAB FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT

The Philippine Society of General Surgeons-Metro Manila Chapter (PSGS-MMC) and Unilab Consumer Health, makers of Alaxan and a division of United Laboratories, recently signed a memorandum of agreement for the 'Pain Management Education' program. The project aims to educate Filipinos on proper pain management so they can continue living productive and enjoyable lives. Shown are Dr. Gabriel Martinez, PSGS-MMC president (seated, third from left) and Cecille Cruz, vice president, Unilab consumer health division (seated, fourth from left), with (seated, from left) Dr. George KCT Cheu, PSGS-MMC treasurer, Joselito Garcia, Unilab consumer health product director-somatics, Dr. George Lim, PSGS-MMC vice president, Mark Alcantara, Unilab consumer health product manager-somatics, Dr. William Olalia, PSGS-MMC secretary. Standing, from left, are Dr. Enrico Ragaza, PSGS-MMC chair, committee on research, Sunshine Aquino, Unilab consumer health brand manager-somatics, Dr. Edgardo Fernandez, PSGS-MMC chair, committee on external affairs and public relations, and Lorenzo Layug, Unilab consumer health brand manager-somatics.

FANS
Pizza Hut

DIETHER'S BIRTHDAY AT PIZZA HUT

Special occasions, like birthdays and Christmases, are best celebrated with family and friends. That is why it comes as no surprise that Diether Ocampo celebrated his birthday with the people closest to his heart: his media friends and colleagues, his adoring fans, and his Pizza Hut family. Wearing his Pizza Pooch birthday hat, Diether poses for the camera together with 'Recuerdo de Amor' co-star Angeline Aguilar and the crew of Pizza Hut Delta branch headed by restaurant manager Alvin Guinto. As a special birthday treat for Diether, Pizza Hut set up a food and drinks bar backstage for Diether's close friends and colleagues at ABS-CBN's noontime show 'ASAP'.

RICE PRICE STABLE

Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas (center) with National Food Authority public affairs director Rafael T. Flores (left) check on the price of rice being sold at Nepa-Q Mart in Quezon City during a market inspection conducted after the recent typhoons and flooding that hit the country. Rice prices remain stable as the NFA increases its rice distribution through its various outlets including the rolling stores operating nationwide. Also shown is DTI-NCR director Luwina Enesio.

New PGI president, Filipino GM named

BARRY S. Andrews, a career official of Unocal Corp., formally assumes office today, Aug. 1, as president of wholly owned subsidiary Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI), succeeding D. Stephen Pye who has retired after 35 years of distinguished service with the company. PGI also announced that Antonio F. Yee, its highest ranking Filipino official, has been named senior vice president and general manager (SVP-GM) of the company. Andrews will have overall responsibility for Unocal's Philippine business unit. Yee will be primarily responsible for PGI's ongoing geothermal steam field operations at Tiwi and Makiling-Banahaw (Mak-Ban).

First national confab on eLearning

ARE YOU a modern educator who wants a richer learning experience through the use of current technologies? Discover new horizons in education, develop new partnerships, and broaden your perspectives at the 1st National Conference on eLearning to be held at the Manila Hotel on Aug. 1 and 2. For registration and other details, call 897-5011 to 16. The 1 National Conference on eLearning is being organized by the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (Itecc), through [illegible]s Human Resources Development Committee.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2002

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE
O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful inter-cessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Provisional Receipt Booklet Series No. 5013-5050 of SD Publications, Inc. has been declared lost.

Please do not honor the above-mentioned Provisional Receipts when presented.

(PDI -- Aug. 1, 2002)

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF CATBALOGAN (Western Samar), INC. (RBCI)

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed **Rural Bank of Catbalogan (Western Samar), Inc.** on **August 2, 2002.**

Depositors are advised to proceed to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), to file their claims for insured deposits. Claim forms will be issued free of charge. PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Also, PDIC has designated Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) – Catbalogan Branch as its paying agent for RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Head Office. Numbers of approved claims filed with RBCI – Head Office that have been turned over by PDIC representatives to LBP shall be posted at the payoff site. Depositors are therefore requested to refer to these numbers before proceeding to the LBP servicing branch for payment of claims. Duly processed claims in all the 7 branches of RBCI shall be paid by PDIC Disbursing Officers.

Servicing Dates	Payoff Site	RBCI Office/ Branch	LBP Servicing Branch
August 2 to August 15, 2002	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Head Office Pier I, Curry Ave., Poblacion, Catbalogan, Western Samar	Catbalogan, *Head Office*	LBP-Catbalogan Branch
	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Borongan Branch S. Montes and P. Limbauan Sts., Borongan, Eastern Samar	Borongan and McArthur	-
August 2 to August 8, 2002	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Calbiga Branch National Road, Brgy. 4 Calbiga, Western Samar	Calbiga	-
August 2 to August 6, 2002	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Sulat Branch Cor. Opino and Aserios Sts., Brgy. Mara-mara, Sulat, Eastern Samar	Sulat	-
	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Guiuan Branch Lugay St., Guiuan, Eastern Samar	Guiuan	-
August 9 to August 15, 2002	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Llorente Branch Escalo St., Brgy. 11 Llorente, Eastern Samar	Llorente	-
August 9 to August 21, 2002	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Dolores Branch 543rd ECB St., Dolores, Eastern Samar	Dolores	-

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) bearing the depositor's specimen signature.

Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed **Rural Bank of Catbalogan (Western Samar), Inc.** is on **December 9, 2003.** After **December 9, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Aug 1 & 2, 2002)

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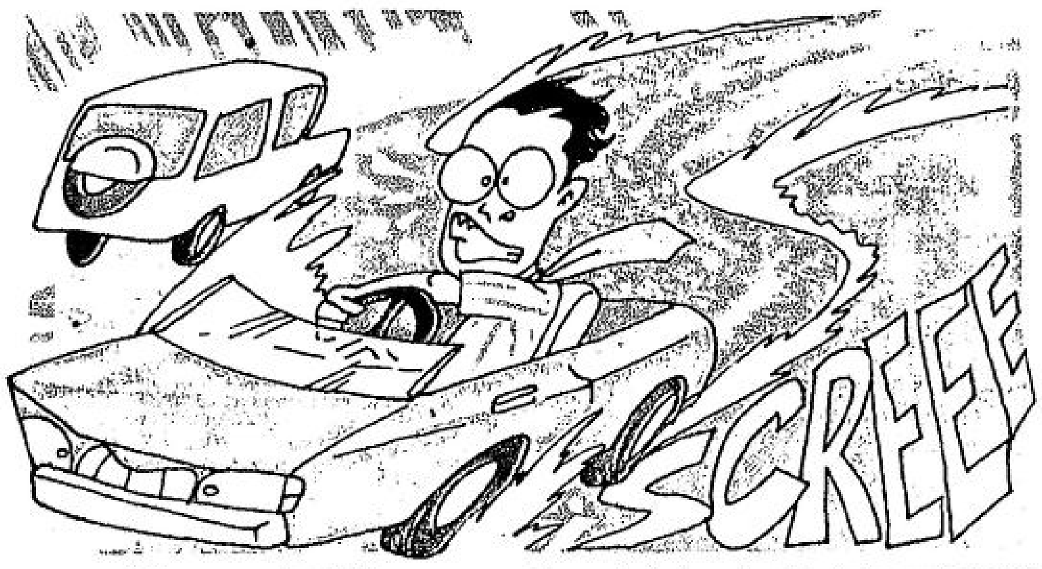
MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Even high-tech cars find roads slippery when wet

By Tessa R. Salazar



THE POSSIBILITY of road accidents is magnified during the wet season. It's frightening to be finding yourself in a situation where heavy rains prevent you from seeing street signs and damaged or flooded roads ahead even with your headlights at high beam. And then, when you do abruptly apply your brakes, you hydroplane—an even more dangerous situation. Hydroplaning takes place when the water in front of your tires builds up faster than your vehicle's weight can push it out of the way. Your car then loses its grip on the road. You are literally skimming over the water, and you uncontrollably drift out of your lane.

Recent advances in braking technology have led to shorter stopping distances and increased control while driving in rainy conditions. One of the most notable features in many vehicles today is traction control that offers drivers the benefit of space-age electronics to improve a car's grip on the road.

Situationally aware vehicles

Tomorrow's cars may include tire and weather sensors to transmit information to your vehicle's "brain." Experts say that each vehicle would feed information about its surroundings into a database and each vehicle would also draw information from the same database that would be needed for a particular condition. Experts call them "situationally aware" vehicles.

Drivers who are 50 to 60 years old will be needing not just advances in traction control or braking technology during the rainy season, but also other safety features like enhanced night vision, intelligent cruise control, blind spot sensing and rear-end crash avoidance systems. Sensors will make these all possible, said Dr. Christine Johnson, director of the Multimodal Intelligent Transportation System of the US Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C.

Driver support system

Siemens' automotive group, for instance, is developing the stop-and-go assistant, a driver support system that will keep a constant "eye" on the road. This system will make use of two cameras that could be mounted inside the headlight housings or behind the windshield to continually watch up to a three-lane area ahead of the vehicle. This system will be in place in a demo car by March 2005.

Automotive safety electronics specialist Martin Hummel said the cameras will be able to look 60 meters ahead at speeds below 50 kph and alter the vehicle's speed dynamically even as different vehicles pop in and out of the lane ahead of it.

"In heavy traffic, the car could feel as though it's practically driving itself," he said. The idea is to provide an instantaneous reaction to rapidly slowing traffic and thereby reduce the incidence and severity of rear-end collisions while also reducing driver stress," he added.

It could be years away before these advances reach the Philippines. Even then, it is not for technology alone to save our lives on the road. Judgment calls, in the end, would still be made by the person behind the wheel.

The Land Transportation Office's traffic safety department urged motorists to remind themselves to adjust their driving habits accordingly when driving in especially heavy rains.

Unseen pedestrians

Driving in heavy rains results in poor visibility. That means you will not be able to see road signs immediately. Pedestrians—especially those wearing dark clothing—will be hard to notice. Other motorists can also make it difficult for you to see when their car headlights are set to high beams.

In this situation, shift the center of your sight to the right-hand shoulder of the road, while maintaining peripheral eye contact with the oncoming vehicle. This way, should the blinding oncoming light distract you, you will veer safely into the shoulder and not perilously into the oncoming lane. This advice was given to motorists by Jim Solomon, program development and training manager for the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Courses.

Rainy weather driving

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE TYPHOONS and floods of the past two weeks brought back memories of rainy season driving on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) before the Skyway was built and the at-grade level was rehabilitated. Then as now, a long stretch of the southbound lane between the Nichols toll plaza and the Bicutan exit would be deeply flooded after a downpour. In fact, it would not only be deeply flooded, it would be impassable. So motorists were forced to play the waiting game.

The waiting game was nothing more than stopping your car, switching off the engine and waiting for the flood to subside. Anyway, even if you wanted to continue and drive into the flooded area, you could not because your way was blocked by other cars parked on the SLEX, which became a big parking lot.

I had learned from experience during the rainy season to always have a thermos of drinking water and a tin of biscuits in my car for sustenance in case of a long wait. The average duration of the waiting game on the SLEX was three hours. This was before cell phones became common, so it helped to have other people in the car to chat or play games with while waiting. Those were the days and I'm glad the southbound lane of the SLEX no longer gets impassably flooded, although it still does get deeply flooded.

It turns out that the waiting game is the best course of action for motorists to take when confronted by a deep flood. When I asked Martin's Car Services proprietor Martin Tancinco at Motortown, Alabang Town Center, for advice on what a motorist should do when he or she is trapped by a flood, he replied: "Wait."

If the flood appears deep enough to cover your car's hood or reach its air intake filter, don't try to drive through it, Martin says: "Turn on your hazard lights, park to one side, switch off the engine and wait for the flood to subside. Let the drivers behind you curse you and honk their horns all they want, you are saving your engine."

Remember that your car is not a submarine nor an amphibious vehicle, Martin warns. The alternator and computer box are at risk of getting wet as they are located only two and a half feet above the ground. If they get soaked and short-circuit, as what happens when you try to start the engine after it stalls in a flood, you may have to change the whole assembly and that will cost you at least P20,000.

Since water cannot be compressed, once water enters the air intake it cannot be forced back out again by the initial compression of the piston. Cranking the engine after it stalls in a flood may damage the connecting rod and possibly the cylinders and the valves, which will require extensive repair or engine replacement.

Martin also points out that water flowing over the center axis of any of the four wheels will affect the greased portions of the wheel bearings, which in the newer cars are the hub or sealed type. If water enters the hub, the grease will be diluted and removed by the water. Without adequate lubrication, metal-to-metal contact will occur, resulting in faster wear and tear of the bearings.

This being the case, it is advisable after driving through a deep flood to have your trusted mechanic or auto repair shop check the greasing points in the suspension and steering systems. A lubrication job may have to be done.

For those in manual transmission cars who have no choice but to drive through a flooded area, Martin's pointers are: Go to the shallowest area, stay in first gear and never release the throttle (gas pedal or accelerator). The engine should be revving all the time to prevent water from entering the exhaust pipe. If you have to slow down, step on the clutch and the gas pedals simultaneously and shift to neutral. If you are driving an automatic transmission (AT) car in a flood, step on the gas and brake pedals simultaneously when shifting gears in order to prevent the car from surging forward and possibly hitting the car in front. An AT car is more vulnerable in a flood as its transmission system is electronic.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, Martin believes. Before the rainy season starts every year, check the weather strips of your car's doors to make sure they are intact. The weather strips keep the passenger cabin airtight and water-resistant. If a weather strip is torn, misaligned or otherwise damaged, water will enter the car.

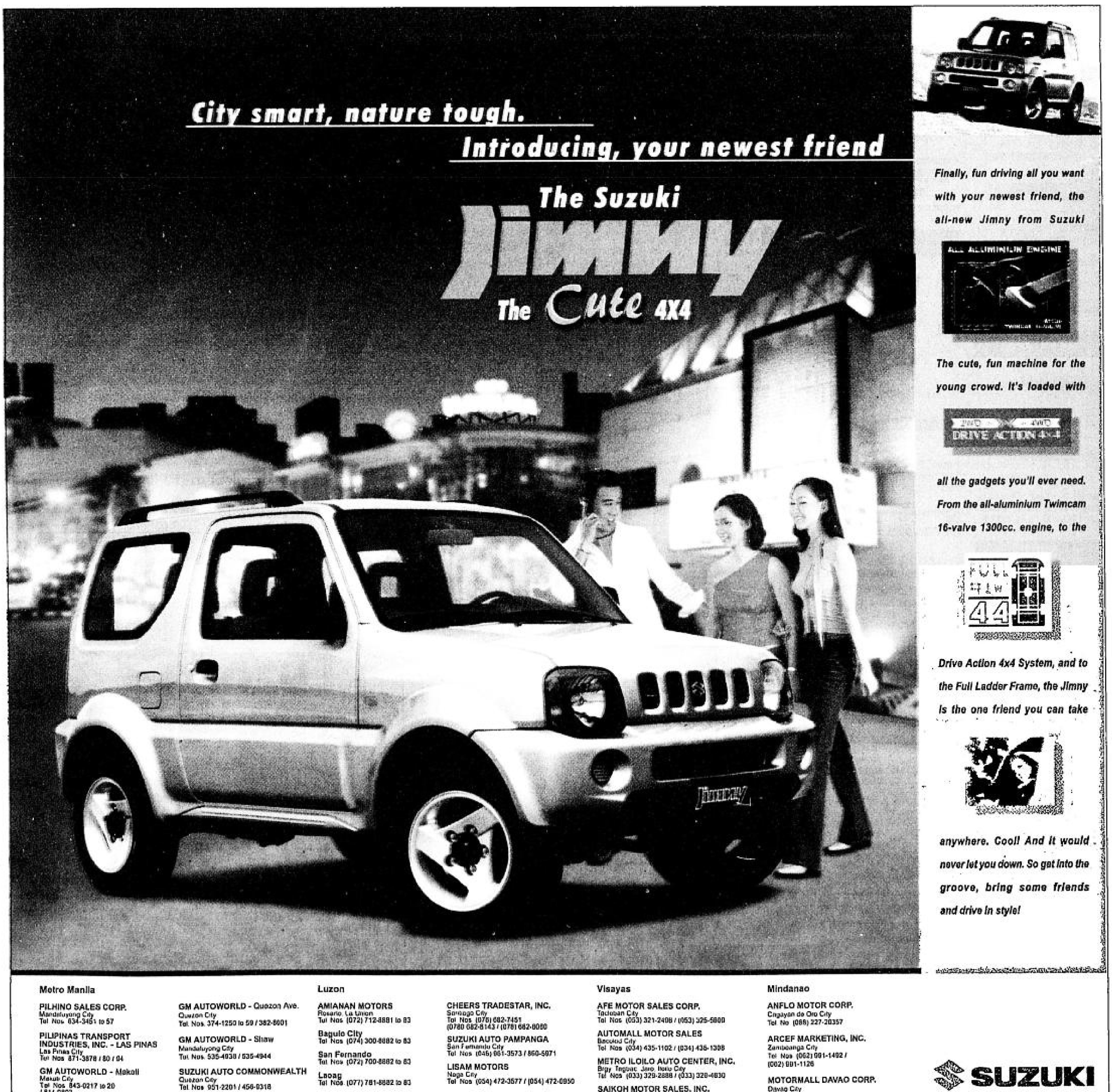
Floods are where 4x4 sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks have the edge. Because of their high ground clearance, SUVs and pickups can easily ford knee-deep flood water. But deeper than that? It's anybody's guess.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: The closer you get, the slower I go.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@pacific.net.ph



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SUZUKI

RP's love affair with the Classic Beetle

Text and photo
by Charles E. Buban

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: Bringing in the Classic Beetle here was a goal set by Manzana since its German manufacturer stopped its worldwide production in 1979.

GREAT cars should never be forgotten: you either restore them like what most would do with their old reliable car or buy a brand-new one in some place where it's still being built (if there is still one). In the case of the Classic Beetle, the only place to look for is 'Mexico where the car is still being manufactured today after Volkswagen stopped producing it in 1978 in Germany.

The brand-new Classic Beetle, however, is only for the consumption of the Latin American market, as one fanatic of this particular model found out. "When I went to Mexico last year, the VW dealer in Tijuana told me that the only chance I can buy one is through a Mexican dummy—one with a Mexican address and tax ID," laments Webin Dy Manzana, general manager of Hancars AutoCenter.

And even if Manzana managed to buy one, he would still have to personally shoulder the cost for its shipping from Mexico since no VW dealership in that country is allowed to ship it out. "Even the option of driving the 2002 Classic Beetle all the way to a California port, that is assuming I pass the US Customs, would require me to spend close to a million pesos just to get a single unit here!"

But Manzana was not discouraged. After months of surfing the Internet, his persistence finally paid off when a contact informed him that Japan also imports a huge number of this car from Mexico through a gray market. He bought six units (as this was the minimum number the Japanese would allow him) for Hancars AutoCenter, thus becoming the first dealership to bring the 2002 Classic Beetle into the country. "I want the Filipinos to get a chance to experience riding the 2002 Classic Beetle themselves. Of course, I'll keep one for myself."

Manzana says that once all the five are sold (only two units remain in his Quezon Avenue dealership) he will order another batch from Japan. "You see, since the early '90s, there is a resurgence in demand for the Classic Beetle from many countries including the United States, Canada, Japan and Germany, but VW of Germany restricted the export of the Classic Beetle from its subsidiary in Mexico for fear that it might interfere with the demand for new VW lines of cars, especially the 'Concept One.' I intend to bring back the Filipino's fascination for this car through the various networks of gray market such as in Japan," says Manzana.

The love bug resurrected

Volkswagen is probably lamenting the day it decided to can the Classic Beetle, a hugely popular car that helped define a generation. With its hip, anti-snob appeal, the Beetle as everywhere else in the world, was loved by Filipinos. At its peak in 1972, the Classic Beetle posted a record when the 15,007,034th unit rolled out of the Volkswagen factory in Wolfsburg, Germany, surpassing the Ford Model T's previous production record to become the most heavily produced car in history.

And the bug has indeed returned from its 20-year plus absence in the Philippine market. The 2002 Classic Beetles that Manzana brought recently are virtual copies of the 1979 Classic Beetle manufactured in Emden, Germany, with its trademark air-cooled rear-mounted engine.

The 2002 Classic Beetle was redesigned to conform with today's trends like the removal of chrome trims and introduction of body colored bumpers. It also carries some improvements inside like its 1.6-liter 4-cylinder Flat Four Multipoint Injection EFI engine (runs on unleaded gasoline), 3-way catalytic converter, US standard fuel system, a 4-speed manual transmission with overdrive, plus modern amenities like an electronic immobilizer with digital key, a CD player, factory-installed air-conditioning system, anti-theft alarm system, a new dashboard and interior design.

Priced initially at P690,000, the 2002 Classic Beetle will carry a six-month unlimited mileage warranty on parts and labor. "There's no problem on spare parts since this model is basically the same as that of the 1973-1974 Beetle model assembled by DMG whose parts are now readily available in auto stores around the country—except for the ignition and fuel system which my dealership now carries just in case," assures Manzana.

People's car

The Classic Beetle originated in Germany and is produced by Volkswagen company whose name means "People's Car." The car dates back to the early 1930s when Ferdinand Porsche (famous for designing the Porsche sports cars) designed a prototype of the Classic Beetle.

The Classic Beetle was introduced here by DMG in the mid-'60s and it became an instant bestseller.

Since then, the Classic Beetle has underwent several exterior and interior transformation. The car became a counter-culture icon in the United States during the 1960s largely because it offered an alternative to the extravagant American cars then. But by 1978, the Classic Beetle ceased to be built in Germany, when Volskwagen dismantled the Classic Beetle line and transferred everything to its Puebla facilities in Mexico.

In 1994 VW unveiled its new Concept One vehicle at the Detroit Auto Show which was later known as the New Beetle four years later. This time the car carried a water-cooled engine at the front and had a modern look but still had the rounded shape of the Classic Beetle. The Classic Beetle however, hasn't completely disappeared, as it is still being produced in Mexico. But it is now known by other names. It's called the Sedan in Mexico, Nostalgic in Germany and Classic in the United States. But for its many fans worldwide, this old icon is still the preferred Love Bug.

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Angry Abalos; Isuzu's unrelenting shot at success

FULL TANK
Al Mendoza

ISUZU is not one to stop while already ahead of the pack. It was successful in almost all its previous models. Remember the XUV and the XTRM? And then came the Crosswind? Isuzu hit jackpots with them.

Some days back, Isuzu unveiled its latest model—the Crosswind XUVi.

When I read about its planned launch, I got curious about that "i" in the XUVi. Curiously, the "i" is italicized. For accent?

Finally, I got it. The letter "i" stood for innovative, immeasurable and incomparable. Wow! Talk about creativity.

In the car world, nothing is impossible.

* * *

I have only gawked at pictures of the XUVi. Its colors elicit fantasy-like notions from wonderland, if not wanderlust.

The ebony black evokes machismo. The caribbean gold appeals to myth lovers; it resembles a Greek-like goddess oozing with sex appeal.

Whoever concocted the color-mix must have thought of Greek mythology when Greece was the world center of civilization.

Welcome to a universe of "outasight" in the Age of Windows 2000.

* * *

Honda continues to rake it in insofar as orders of the new CR-V is concerned. Do you know that the waiting line is three months?

The phenomenon is nationwide.

To ensure the continuous flow of CR-Vs and satisfy the customers, Honda has started doubling its efforts to ship in orders from Japan.

"I guess some enterprising Filipinos have made a killing from our CR-Vs," said one Honda insider.

In what way?

"One would order three, and then sell his two other slots to would-be buyers," the source said. "It's like falling in line to buy a Broadway ticket in New York. You fall in line, only to sell your slot to a late-coming theater habitué."

Very similar to "scalping" when it comes to tickets in sports. Scalping is selling tickets—usually at a much higher price—to spectators lazy enough to join the queue.

The CR-V must be that good (not to mention its marked-down price following its transformation from SUV to AUV), otherwise car buffs would not bother to fall in line for three months just to get hold of one.

* * *

Perhaps, Bayani Fernando is a hero to his *kabayans* in Marikina but to Mayor Ben-Hur Abalos of Mandaluyong City, he is not.

Irked by Fernando's act removing the metal railings from the Edsa-Shaw intersection in Mandaluyong, Abalos publicly castigated Fernando for "meddling" with the "strictly" private affairs of Mandaluyong.

Fernando may have a valid reason—help ease traffic by removing the metal railings at Abalos' turf. But then, the end does not justify the means.

Fernando forgot about one elementary thing: courtesy. He forgot to inform Abalos of his plan.

Just like you, I also want Fernando to succeed in his mission to rid the metropolis of traffic jams. I'm sure Abalos, whose father Ben was Fernando's predecessor, also shares the same sentiment.

But then, in going about his job, Fernando should exercise caution. Always, there is no substitute for a project that is well-planned. Bungle it because of overzealousness, plus eager-beaver men, and the best thought-out plan in the world will simply go down the drain.

* * *

GET WELL SOON. Here's hoping for the speedy recovery of Mandi Salvador, an amiable townmate of mine who is currently confined at the Chinese General Hospital. The president of the Sons and Daughters of Veterans of the Philippines, Mandi's tireless efforts in uplifting the lot of the country's war veterans have warmed the hearts of many. You will always have my prayers, Mandi.

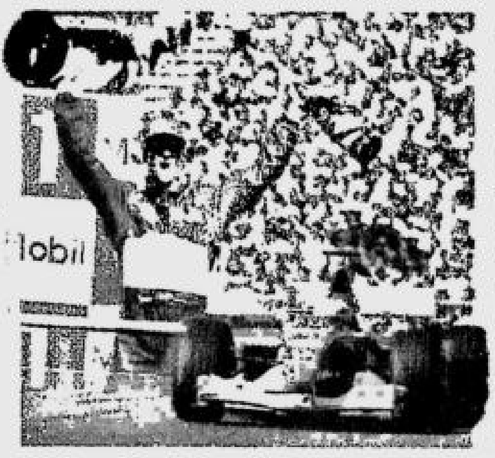
* * *

QUOTE ME. To expose government indifference is the first true act of a sovereign people.

The Circuit

CONGRATULATIONS MICHAEL! CONGRATULATIONS FERRARI!

Michael Schumacher won last Sunday's German Grand Prix for the first time in a Ferrari. His brother, Ralf gave him a valiant fight, but at the flag, it was the elder Schumacher who took the spoils. Michael's teammate, Rubens Barrichello was fourth completing a great weekend for the Shell-supported Ferrari team. It was also Ferrari and Shell's 50th consecutive podium finish.



Speaking after the race, Shell's Global Motorsport Business Manager, David Barnes said: "It is great to see both Ferrari cars finishing so strongly today. We have had one of the hottest races of the year and that puts considerable strain on the engines which our lubricant has to deal with effectively. Also a lap of Hockenheim this year is shorter than last, increasing the stress upon the cars. The lubricants we provided the team worked just as planned and Michael's first Ferrari win here is the perfect proof."

Michael led the field off the grid from pole position and immediately set out to establish a lead. After one lap, he was 1.6 seconds clear of his brother who was busy trying to keep Michael's teammate Rubens Barrichello at bay. Michael's lead quickly grew, it was 2.55 seconds after two laps and 3.5 after five. The field set about to race, leaving an almighty scrap in the midfield as Michael Schumacher, Ralf Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello disappeared into the distance.

The leaders made the most of their advantage on lap 26 when Rubens Barrichello pitted for fuel and tires. His stop of 8.6 seconds was perfectly made. Michael pitted the following lap and again made a great stop. Meanwhile, Ralf inherited the lead of the race, trying to build a lead with which he could pass his brother, but a series of blistering laps from Michael and a slow car in front of Ralf as he pitted gave Michael his lead back.

The second round of pit stops came with 20 laps to go. Once again, Rubens Barrichello was the first of the leaders in. His stop was prolonged however when a problem with his fuel rig held him in the pits for nearly 20 seconds which demoted him to fourth place. Next in was Michael who suffered no such problems and Ferrari neatly changed his tires and topped him up with Shell fuel in 8.5 seconds. The two Williams cars were the next in Ralf, notably not taking fresh rubber, only stopping for fuel.

Towards the end of the race, the German circuit began to take its toll. Cars began to drop out all around the circuit. Irvine, Fisichella and Raikkonen all retired with only seven laps to go whilst Michael Schumacher's relentless charge at the head of the field continued unabated.

Michael went on to win his ninth Grand Prix of the year, Ferrari's tenth. Behind Michael was Juan Pablo Montoya second and Ralf third. Rubens earned three valuable points for Ferrari finishing fourth with Coulthard and Heidfeld rounding off the points in fifth and sixth. Michael has now won his home Grand Prix in a Ferrari, something that sent the 120,000 home fans wild with delight. For the fans, the parties at Hockenheim are set to continue late into the night, for the teams, they will leave Germany and begin a much needed three week break before Formula One comes to Hungary in August.

2002 FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

(After 12 Grand Prix Races)

DRIVER STANDINGS	
M. SCHUMACHER	106
MONTOYA	40
R. SCHUMACHER	36
BARRICHELLO	35
COULTHARD	32
RAIKKONEN	17

TEAM STANDINGS	
FERRARI	141
WILLIAMS	76
McLAREN	49
RENAULT	15
SAUBER	11
JORDAN	6

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INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO A PRE-ELIGIBILITY CONFERENCE

The Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee has scheduled a Pre-Eligibility Conference in connection with the bidding for the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) Project. The conference will be held on Monday, August 5, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. at the PS Conference Room, Madrigal Compound, RR Road, Cristobal Street, Paco, Manila.

For queries, you may contact:

THE SECRETARIAT
Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee ("IABAC")
Department of Budget and Management - Procurement Service
PS Conference Room, Second Floor
Madrigal Compound, RR Road, Cristobal Street
Paco, Manila
Philippines
Telefax No.: (632) 563-9350
Contact Person: Ms. Rita P. De Castro
Head, IABAC Secretariat
Website: www.procurementservice.org

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – Aug. 1, 2002)

National Power Corporation
Small Power Utilities Group
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

For the SALE of Waste Oil
"as is, where is"
Date of Bid Opening : August 15, 2002

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
532,400 Liters of WASTE OIL (Bunker) at Power Barge 103, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City	P 2.00/Li

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until the abovestated date, 10:00 AM at NPC-SPUG Office, 3/F Building 1, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2001) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)
3. ANY OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:
   For Treater/Recycler : DENR Hazardous Waste Generator's ID
   For Transporter : DENR Certificate of Registration

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P.F. VICTORIA at the above address or call Tel. No. 9228449/9213541 Local 5583.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

(Sgd.) **R. C. CASTILLO**
Chairman

(PDI--July 31, Aug. 1 & 2, 2002)

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OBITUARIES

Blessed are they that mourn;
for they shall be comforted.
Matthew 5:4

Message of Thanks

The family and relatives of the late

MICHAEL G. BUGANTE

who peacefully joined his Creator
on July 22, 2002

wish to express their heartfelt gratitude
& sincerest appreciation to all those who comforted
and condoled with them during the time
of their bereavement.

"Even in my darkest hour.
The Lord will bless me with His power,
His loving graces will sure bound,
In His sweet care I shall be found."

DENNIS V. DEL ROSARIO

Peacefully joined his Creator
and his mother ***Iluminada***
on July 29, 2002 at the age of 41.

He is survived by his wife **Ninica**; and children **Ardi, Brian** and **Macky**; his in-laws **Dante, Dulcisima, Nic, William, Adette** and **Baby**; his brothers **Erwin, Ariel** and **Marco**; his sisters **Gigi, Sharone** and **Missy**; and his loving father **Marc**.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose at Greenhills, San Juan.

Interment is set at 3:30 p.m., Friday, August 2, 2002 at the St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

"Your presence will be deeply missed but the memories of your goodness and love will live with us and remain in our hearts forever, TATAY."

AMANDO S. SANTIAGO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 29, 2002 at the age of 69

His loving wife MILAGROS; children MINERVA and ARNOLD, MARITA, MADONNA and MILANDO; grandchildren MIGGY and MARIELLA; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

He will be laid to rest at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Kalookan City on Tuesday, August 6, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Morning Breeze Subdivision, Kalookan City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Ernesto "Bobby" B. Nera

Manager (Luna Rocks Inc.)
Brgy. Capt. (Salcedo, Luna, La Union)

Peacefully joined his Creator
on the 23rd of July 2002 at the age of 52.

His wife **Catalina "Nena" Ancheta Nera**; children **Donna & Inri**; grandchildren **Dane, Rein & Adie**; brother **Lito & Family**; brothers and sisters-in-law; relatives, friends, colleagues, and those whose lives he has touched, request that your prayers commend him to our Lord's restful embrace.

His remains lie in state at Nera's residence, Salcedo, Luna, La Union.

"God needed him more than we did."

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OBITUARIES

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DR. ENRIQUE C. GALANG, DCL, Phd.

Retired Army Colonel
Former Dean, Manila Law College
Former Dean, Philippine College of Criminology Graduate School
First Director, PCCR Review Center for Criminology Licensure Examination

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 29, 2002
at the age of 92.

His loving wife: **Paula**; *children:* **Leandro - Drema, Enrique - Cristy**; *grandchildren:* **Enrique - Kim, Cristina - Kevin, Leandra, Ryan, Peewee, Peejay, Princess**; *brothers & sisters-in-law:* **Ricardo & Luz, Cornelio & Silla, Igmedio** (†) & **Jovita** (†), **Felix & Sesing, Gonzalo & Aurora**; *sisters & brothers-in-law:* **Sophia & Rolly** (†), **Natividad & Bob** (†).

We request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Enriquez Funeral Parlor, F. Tañedo St., San Nicholas, Tarlac City.

Interment will be announced later.

ARNALDO "HERKY" D. DAYRIT

Peacefully joined his Creator and
his parents Generoso and Ana Dayrit
on July 29, 2002 at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Saning Dimson Dayrit**; children and children-in-law **Alex, Rona, Jane & Lorenz Legazpi, Norman & Lydia, Dennis & Heidi** (†) & **Donna, Cherith** (†) & **Peter Garcia, Val, Tina & Forrest Kesseler**; his grandchildren; his sisters **Lita D. Ortigas, Zon D. Cruz & Marian D. Picart**, mourn his passing and pray for his eternal rest.

Memorial Mass will be offered on August 3, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. at the Ground Floor Chapel of the Church of Christ the King at Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Interment of his ashes out of the cremation held on July 29 will follow immediately at the Crypt of the **Church of Christ the King**.

Security & Safety Corporation of the Philippines

Extends its deepest sympathies and condolence
to the family, relatives and friends of its
beloved founding director

Dr. ENRIQUE C. GALANG PhD, RC

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 29, 2002, at the age of 91.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Enriquez, F. Tanedo Street, Tarlac City.

Necrological mass will be held on August 3, 2002 at 8:30 AM at San Sebastian Cathedral, San Sebastian, Tarlac City.

Interment will follow at Eternal Memorial Park, San Sebastian, Tarlac City.

Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no harm; for Thou art with me:
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

In Loving Memory of

CONSORCIA BADILLA GAITE

who joined her Creator
on July 31, 2002 at the age of 78.

Her beloved husband **Gregorio I. Gaite**; children and spouses **Manuel & Maribel, Margie & Rey Hermo, Marilu & Tim Faber, Fr. Mario, Corazon & Jasper Llanderal, Eusebia & Alex Quiñones, Sis. Maria Rosario** and **Michael**; grandchildren and relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Gaite residence in Baao, Camarines Sur.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 3, 2002 at the Baao Catholic Cemetery, after the 8:30 AM Mass at the St. Bartolomew Church.

Filomena D. Escalante

of Gonzaga, Cagayan

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 30, 2002 at the age of 97.

Her bereaved children **Luz** and **Dr. Leon Sabas** (†), **Paz** and **Gen. Restituto Sarcos, Anita** and **Jose Sy** (†), **Engr. Gil** and **Annie King, Norma** and **Col. Justino Padiernos, Engr. Franklin** and **Lolita Sambo**; grandchildren **Grace** and **Dr. Rodolfo Raquiño, Pearl** and **Min. Richard Thackray, Irene** and **David Campos Cantero, Leon E. Sabas Jr., Jai** and **Joey Aracama, Hazel** and **Scott Gower, Dr. Helen E. Sabas, Nelson** and **Oyie, Dr. George** and **Amy, Dr. May Sarcos, Susan** and **Alex Bingtan, Linda** and **Al Constantino, Evelyn** and **Peter Chua, Carmelyn** and **Tito Agustin, Elmer** and **Christine, Madelyn** and **Ken Smith, Marcos** (†) and **Alma, Shirley K. Escalante, Gil Escalante Jr.** and **Beth, Jovy** and **Cecille, Jennifer** and **Edward Torres, Maria Ruby Padiernos, Justino Padiernos Jr., Franklin Escalante Jr.**, and **Mark Escalante**.

Her remains lie in state at Florrisant Chapel, Rizal Funeral Homes, 438 Cementina St. (Libertad St.), Pasay City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 6, 2002 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Florrisant Chapel.

CONCEPCION CASTRO JULIAN

PRO-ECCLETIA ET PONTIFICE AWARDEE

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 30, 2002,
and rejoined her beloved husband ***Trinidad Tamayo Julian****.*

Her loving children **Cuadrato** (†) & **Leonarda Cordero** (†), **Hilario & Luz Peralta, Nieves, Antonio & Albertina Saguiguit, Joselito, Vicente, Romulo & Linda Concepcion, Eduardo & Emma Potencion, Irma & Jose Crisostomo**; grandchildren **Chit & Mike Alcon, Pinky** and **Hansel Dela Cruz, Kiko, Catherine** (†) & **Erwin Ulep, Michael, Joanna, Gerard, Kristine, Myra, Tisha, Gelo, Melissa, Babes** and **Monique**; great grandchildren: in-laws: relatives and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains now lie in state at the Sta. Maria della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan cor. Pansol St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 4, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes your kind donations to the Carmelite Sisters of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

FELICITAS SANCHEZ Vda. de CAMACHO

of Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Has peacefully joined her Creator on July 29, 2002
at the age of 92.

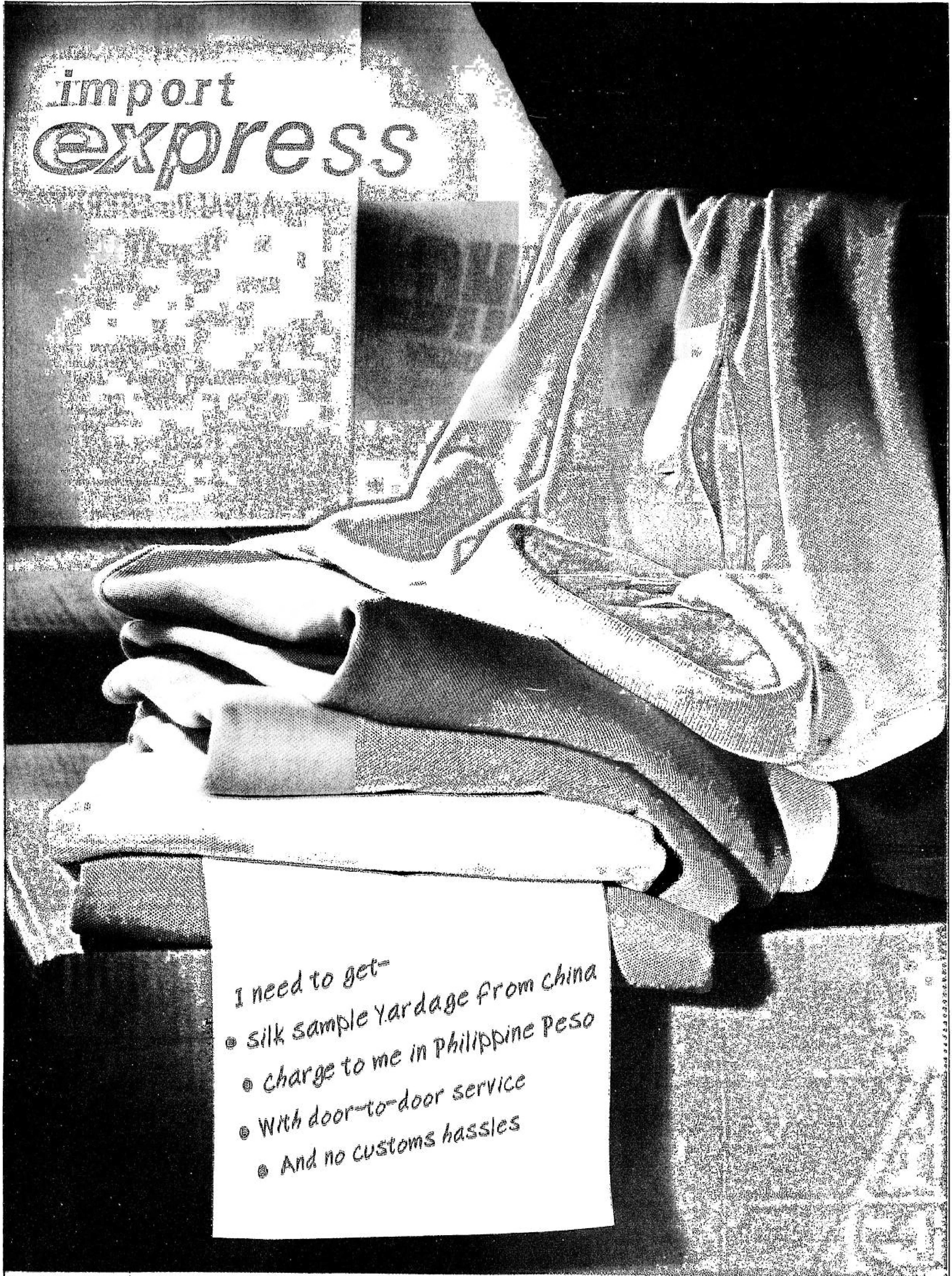
Her bereaved children **Sr. Felisidora, FMM, Fr. Florante, SVD, Dr. Ma. Evangelina** and **Dr. Toto Durban** (+), **Dr. Pedro Emmanuel, Jr.** and **Helen**; grandchildren **Alton, Veronica, P.G. Brian & Claire Marie, Kristie Ann, Marie Felice & Noel Peter**; brothers **Juan & Temistocles**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at their residence,.15 C. Marapao Street, Tagbilaran City.

Interment will take place at the Dampas Catholic Cemetery on Saturday, August 3, 2002 after the 3:30 p.m. Mass at the St. Joseph's Cathedral, Tagbilaran City.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as
dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him.

I Corinthians 2:9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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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BEEF steak with mushroom sauce

Ciao! Ready for the total café experience?

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

COFFEE drinking is a daily habit. And the business is far from the saturation point. From dawn until dusk, from the midnight shift until the 10 a.m. break, the coffeepot is a central social location. Many frequent espresso houses and latté stations. From flavored specialty coffees to mugs of hot black coffee, this elixir is a universally accepted stimulant.

Caffeine may be defused. It may assume distinctive flavors with the introduction of other ingredients. The dark brew may be diluted with cream, milk, sugar, or other additives. But it's still... coffee.

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"We feel there's a great market potential. Thanks to the American coffee companies. In Europe and the US, the market ranges from 18 and above. Here, you can see high school students hanging around coffee bars and partaking of such products," says Ernesto I. Fajardo, who owns and manages the local franchise of Segafredo Zanetti.

Segafredo Zanetti is an Italian coffee company with fully integrated operations that allow it to take full control of all elements from bean selection to the final outcome—the perfect cup of espresso. The company owns coffee plantations in Brazil and operates roasting plants in Italy, France, Austria and the Netherlands. It also provides coffee-making machines, made by La San Marco, to its more than 60,000 espresso bars worldwide.

Italian experience

"Producing a good cup of coffee or espresso is practically

CIAO/ p.C2

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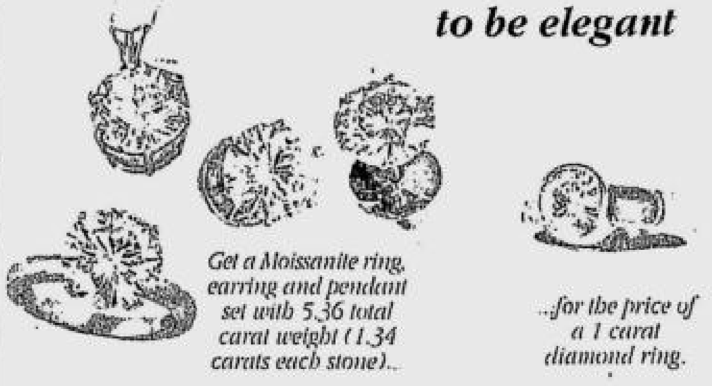

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Stitch Photo Spot

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AUG. 4
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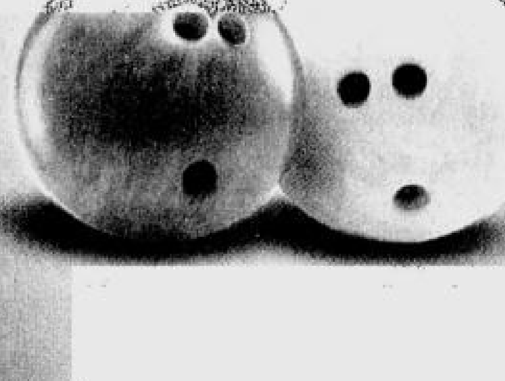
11am-5pm
AUG. 2
SM MEGAMALL
ATRIUM, MEGA A
AUG. 4
SM SOUTHMALL
CENTERMALL STAGE, UGF



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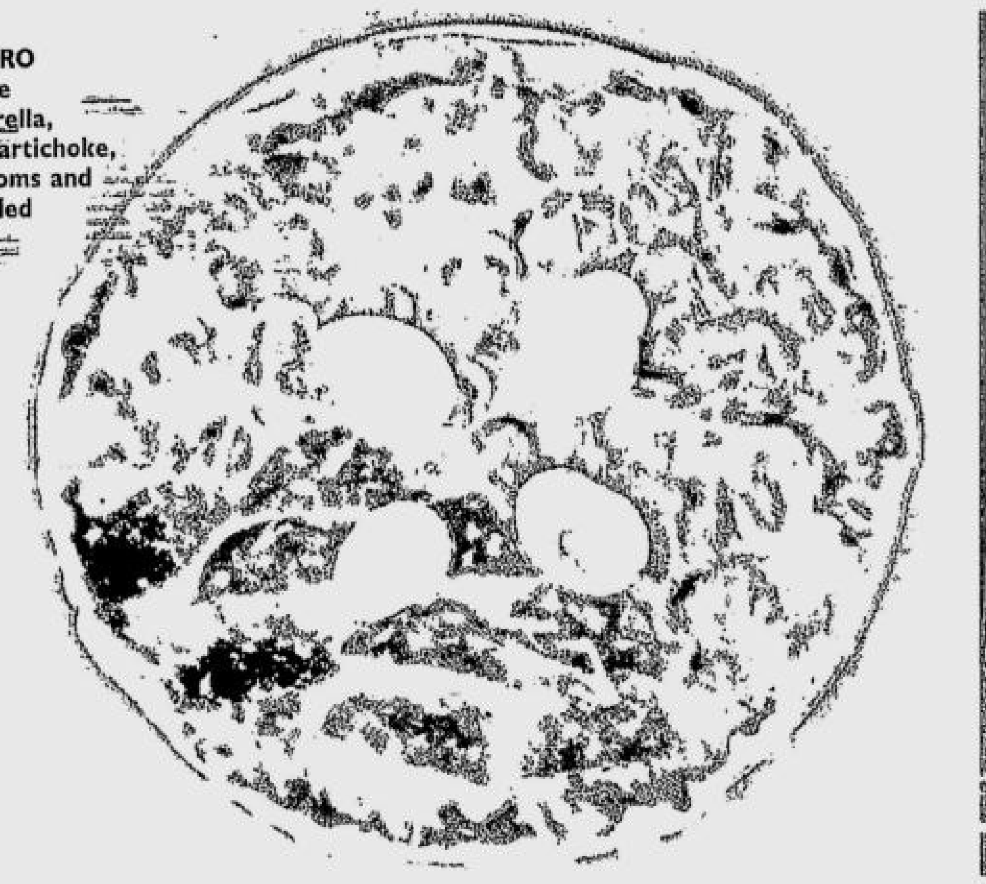
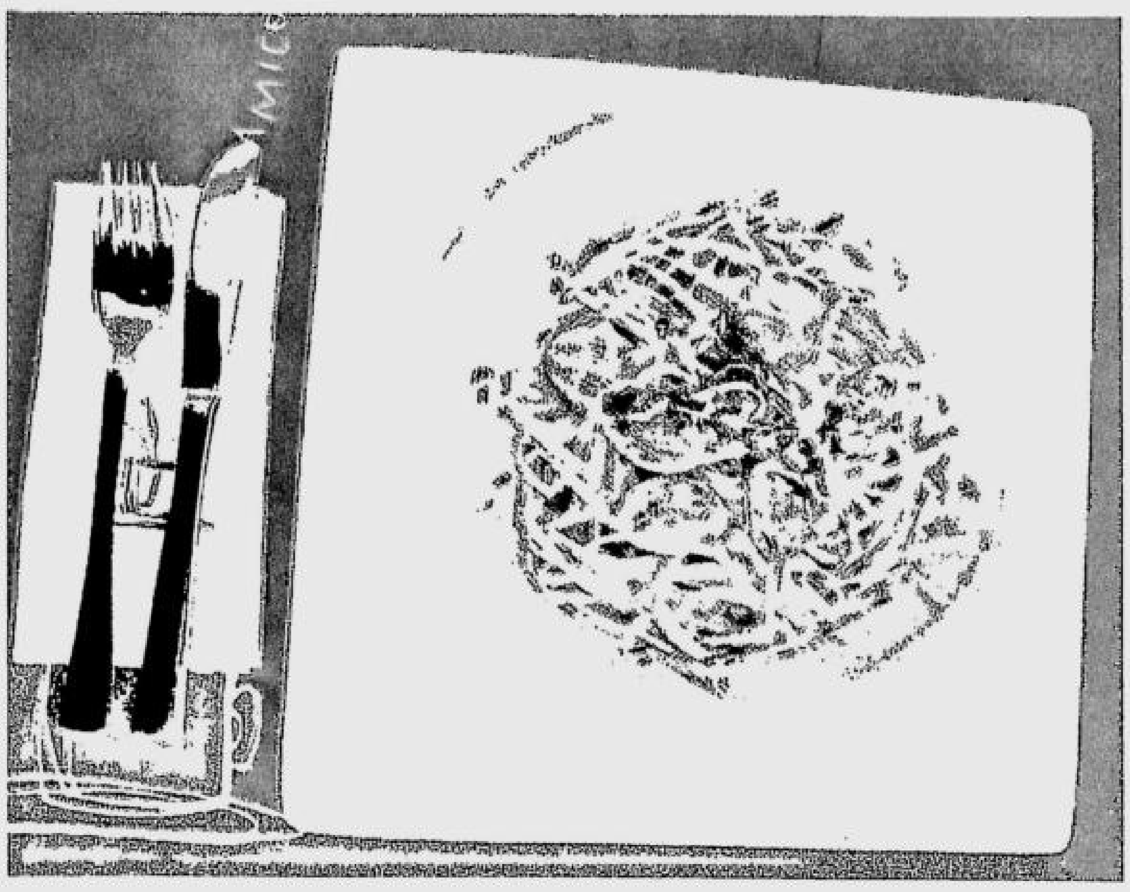


QUATTRO Stagione (mozzarella, salami, artichoke, mushrooms and hardboiled eggs)



VONGOLE (pasta with fresh clams and plain or tomato sauce)

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AUGUST SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

Aug. 01, Thurs. - SAUSAGE WORKSHOP 2. Chef Gene teaches his favorite exotic sausages like Fresh Pork Sausage with Apple and Dried Onion, Italian Sausage with 3 Cheeses and Red Wine, Duck Sausage with Fresh Sage and Roasted Garlic, Greek Sausage Loukanika, Tuscan Sausage, Nurmberg Sausage and Sweet Italian Sausage. The workshop includes introductory set such as funnel, praque powder, accord powder and casing for P1,300.00 from 10 - 3 PM.

Aug. 02, Fri. - FLAVORS OF VIETNAM. Chagio, Nuoc Cham Dipping Sauce, Pickled Vegetables, Nem Nuong Hanoi, Gene's Pho, Goi Ga (Vietnamese Chicken Salad), Cha Ca Thang Long and Xuong Xa Hot Lou are the recipes from Chef Gene. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

Aug. 03, Sat. - GENE'S FAVORITE PASTA SAUCES. Seafood in Saffron Crème & Proscuitto, Squid Ink, Vegetarian White Cheese and Herbs, Sicilian Tuna Roe and many more. P1,000.00 including ingredients from 9:00 to 12:00 noon.

Aug. 05, Mon. - THE SPOON DESSERTS. Chef Junjun will make his popular easy to do desserts served and eaten with a spoon. Great for instant parties and big catering jobs. His line-up are the following: Strawberry Cream Magic, Raspberry and Mandarin Gelatine, Tiramisu Now, Apple Bake with Cinnamon Sauce, Cappuccino Pannacotta, Bread and Butter Pudding and Chocolate Budini. Ph 1,200.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

Aug. 06, Tues. - PORK DISHES 1. Chef Junjun cooks an array of delectable Pork recipes for everyone's enjoyment. Recipes include Stuffed Pork Roast, Italian Style; Pork Hwang; Sate Spareribs, Toyobaboy; Ham Macaroni Special and Pork Shish Kebab. Including all ingredients for P1,500.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

Aug. 08, Thurs. - SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 6. Chef Gino is meant to put a smile on every person seated on the table for all the recipes he will be sharing with us. Creamy Potato Soup, Mixed Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette, Mixed Mushroom Turnover, Stuffed Chicken Breast with Balsamic Syrup, Grilled Beef Tenderloin with Garlic and Black Olive Puree and Coffee Jelly with Amaretti Cream plus a bonus of Toffee Apples. P1,200.00 per day from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 09 & 10, Fri & Sat. - THE COFFEE CLASS 1 & 2 Learn from Chef Gene Gonzalez, the tastemaster of coffee and consultant designer to several coffee house systems teach you (hands-on) the basic of making proper and profitable cups of Americano, Espresso, Cappuccino, Lattés, etc. The class will also touch on the basics of blending, machine and costing on the first day. Day 2 will cover exciting and high profit cold coffee concoctions with creative topping and syrups such as Mocha Madness, Café Seville, Café Tortoni, Coffee Jelly etc. The course is open to both restaurant operators and hobbyists. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 for Ph 3,000.00 for the 2 days.

Aug. 12, Mon. - FUN WITH FISH New sets of recipes from Chef Gene Gonzalez that you'll surely enjoy eating like West Lake Fish, Piquant Steamed Fish, Steamed Fish with Ham & Mushroom, Sweet-Sour Thai Chiu Chow Style, Indian Fish Curry and Yunnan Fish Casserole. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,500.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 13, Tues. - THE SPECIALTY BURGER CLASS Chef Gino elevates the Beef Patty sandwich into a gourmet's delight with new and original concepts. International variations such as Classic Burgers; Burger de Luxe; Green Peppercorn Burger; Greek Burger; Swiss Burger; Parisian Burger and Sicilian Burger with different side-dishes for Ph 1,500.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 14, Wed. - COOKING WITH BEEF 1 Italian Meat loaf, Beef and Eggplant Moussaka, Pot Roast, Oxtail Stew, Savory Short Ribs and Rib Eye Misono are the Beef meals the whole family will enjoy from Chef Junjun's heirloom recipes. 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. for P1,500.00 including all ingredients. *NEW CLASS*

Aug. 15, Thurs. - THE PAO POWER Chef Gene gives simple and easy to make steamed Buns a touch for home and business. Recipes include Siopao Dough, Asado, Bola-bola (Pork and Chicken), Braised Pork (Lo Mah), Black Mongo Filling, Cuapao, Silver Spoon Bread, Kiamchay and Siopao Sauce for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Aug. 16, Fri. - ITALIAN DESSERTS Easy and delectable desserts for everyone's sweet tooth. These are popular desserts from different regions of Italy demonstrated by Chef Junjun of Café Agogo. Recipes include Zuppa Inglese, Zucotto, Budino Amaretti, Cassatta alla Siciliana, Spaghettini Dessert and Risotto Dolci for P1,500.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 17, Sat. - APPETIZERS! APPETIZERS! 4 Array of irresistible pulutan that goes down well with your favorite drinks. Recipes include Spicy Okiam Chicken Wings, Chili Mussels with Dried Fish, Oysters Alla Pizzaiola, Calamares with Garlic Bean Dressing, Pork with Dried Chili Pepper, Camaron Dorado con Jamon with Papaya Pickles and Binggoy's Kinilaw for P1,000.00 from 9:00 - 12:00 noon including all ingredients.

Aug. 19, Mon. - BARS AND STUFF Favorite Bars from Chef Buddy such as Lemon Bars, Toffee Bars, Cream Cheese Bars, Cinnamon Apple Bars, Carrot Bars and French Macaroons for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. including all ingredients. *NEW CLASS*

Aug. 20, Tues. - A JAPANESE MEAL 1 Recipes include Sukiyaki, Shabu-shabu, Miso Soup, Nimono and Gindara Teriyaki from Chef Aoki including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. for P1,200.00. *NEW CLASS.*

Aug. 21, Wed. - FAST AND EASY COOKING 1 Chef Gino Gonzalez teaches you 8 quick, easy and delicious dishes that busy bodies can be proud of. Strictly for family and friendly eating! Recipes include Warm Pollunchay Salad; Clam Chowder; Baked Leek Tart; Shrimp Croquettes; Pasta Alfredo Sauce; Pinoy Sausage and Olive Pasta; Cumin Crusted Chicken Breast with Balsamic Reduction and Butter Tea Parfait with Lemon Custard Sauce for Ph 1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 22, Thurs. - THE CRAB IS KING 2 Chef Gene Gonzalez will teach Crab Hongkong Sampan Style, Malaysian Curried Crab Assam Style, Crab Glutinous Rice in Pot, Pinatisan Alimango, Peppered Fried Crab, Crab Sotanghon. P1,200.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients.

Aug. 23, Fri. - FAST AND EASY COOKING 2 This is part two of Chef Gino's deliciously easy to prepare dishes. Eight good eating dishes include Tuna Garlic Butteryaki; Gino's Squid Ink Fried Rice; Korean Sliced Beef with Bulgogi Sauce; Sizzling Bistek Kabute; Chicken Mapo Beancurd; Chicken and Apple Sesame Fritter Salad; Curried, Corn and Pea Fritters with Tamarind Sauce and Asian Custard Fruit Salad for Ph 1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 24, Sat. - GREAT COUNTRY STEWS Recipes from Chef Gene that includes Jambon Au Reisling, Stewed Lamb in Red Wine, Oxtail Ragout, Chanterelle Mashed Potato and Coq au Vin (Fish Bourride) for P1,000.00 from 9:00 - 12 :00 noon.

Aug. 26, Mon - CHOCOLAT!!! Chef Buddy Trinidad from the pastry kitchens of Michael's in Santa Monica and Manhattan and Stars of San Francisco gives us a sampling of his specialties such as Dark Double Chocolate Brownies, Decadent Chocolate Truffles, Chocolate Molten Cake, Buddy's Chocolate Flourless Cake and Chocolate Mirror Glaze for Ph 1,200.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 27, Tues. - EVERYBODY LOVES CHICKEN Chicken dishes from Chef Junjun for the whole family to enjoy. Chicken Perrins, Dutch Oven Roast Chicken, Spanish Chicken Stew, Chicken Teriyaki, Oven BBQ Chicken and Pollo Parmigiana for Php1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. *NEW CLASS*

Aug. 28, Wed. - HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS 1 Chef Gino will teach bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas give-aways. Recipes include Puttanesca, Salsa, Nacho Cheese Dip, Cilantro Pesto, Classic Pesto, Salad Dressing, Toblerone Fondue and many more. Gift wrapping ideas included for P1,200.00 including ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Aug. 29, Thurs. - KOREAN COOKING 1 Let Shim Kun Huh from Pusan, Korea invite us to her home cooking of Beancurd Banchan, Potato Banchan, Seaweed Soup, Stir-fried Mungsprouts, Lettuce with Fermented Bean Paste, Bulgogi with Dipping Sauce and Dried Anchovy Banchan for P1,200.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. *NEW CLASS*

Aug. 30, Fri. - BUDDY'S PLATED DESSERTS Simple plated desserts from Chef Buddy that you will surely like. Recipes include Banana Mousse with Sesame Nougat, Mango Madness, Raspberry Mousse, Tahitian Vanilla Crème Brulee and Lemon Crème in Cookie Cup for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 31, Sat. - ASIAN RICE & SNACKS Simple Asian Rice and Snacks recipes Soft Spring Rolls (Vietnam), Vietnamese Clay Pot Rice, Flying Red Dragon Shake, Bun Cha Hanoi, Gene's Eight - Treasure Rice in Lotus Leaf, Petaling Clay Pot Chicken Rice (Malaysia) and Nasi Ikan Masin (Malaysia) for P1,000.00 from 9:00 - 12:00 noon.

Ciao! Ready for the total café experience?

From page C1

expected these days. Making a good cup is not difficult with the right machinery and when good coffee and espresso-making considerations are in place. A good coffee can mean satisfied customers and high profit for most operations," Fajardo says.

Of course, just like a strong cup of coffee, the urge to expand is hard to resist. The first local Segafredo Zanetti is located on the ground floor of Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati. It plans to open other outlets in Salcedo Village, Glorietta and Rockwell in Makati; Alabang; and Eastwood, QC.

Segafredo Zanetti zeroes in on upscale urban locations, often commercial buildings, and customers who are more fashion-forward, young and eclectic. "We sell the Italian coffee experience," Fajardo says.

The mainstays of the café bar are the sophisticated blends and European style décor. Coffee is served in red and black Italian ceramic cups with saucers. Black and white prints of Italian lifestyle scenes adorn the walls and tables. "Ambience is contemporary and exciting. It's a one-stop fun place and the new hip café bar in Makati," says Fajardo.

The 50-seat Segafredo Zanetti was designed by architect Ed Calma. Red boxes, the signature design of the café bar in Manila, are prominently displayed. Espresso machines and the bar's logo are placed at the center of the bar. Gus Albor's painting titled "Collected Aroma" can be seen at the top of the bar, which also displays bags of coffee beans, European wines and unique household objects created by Alessi for sale. "The bar features Italian excellence in the field of arts, industrial design, music, fashion. But we intend to feature one Filipino artist in each outlet who'll render his interpretation of coffee."

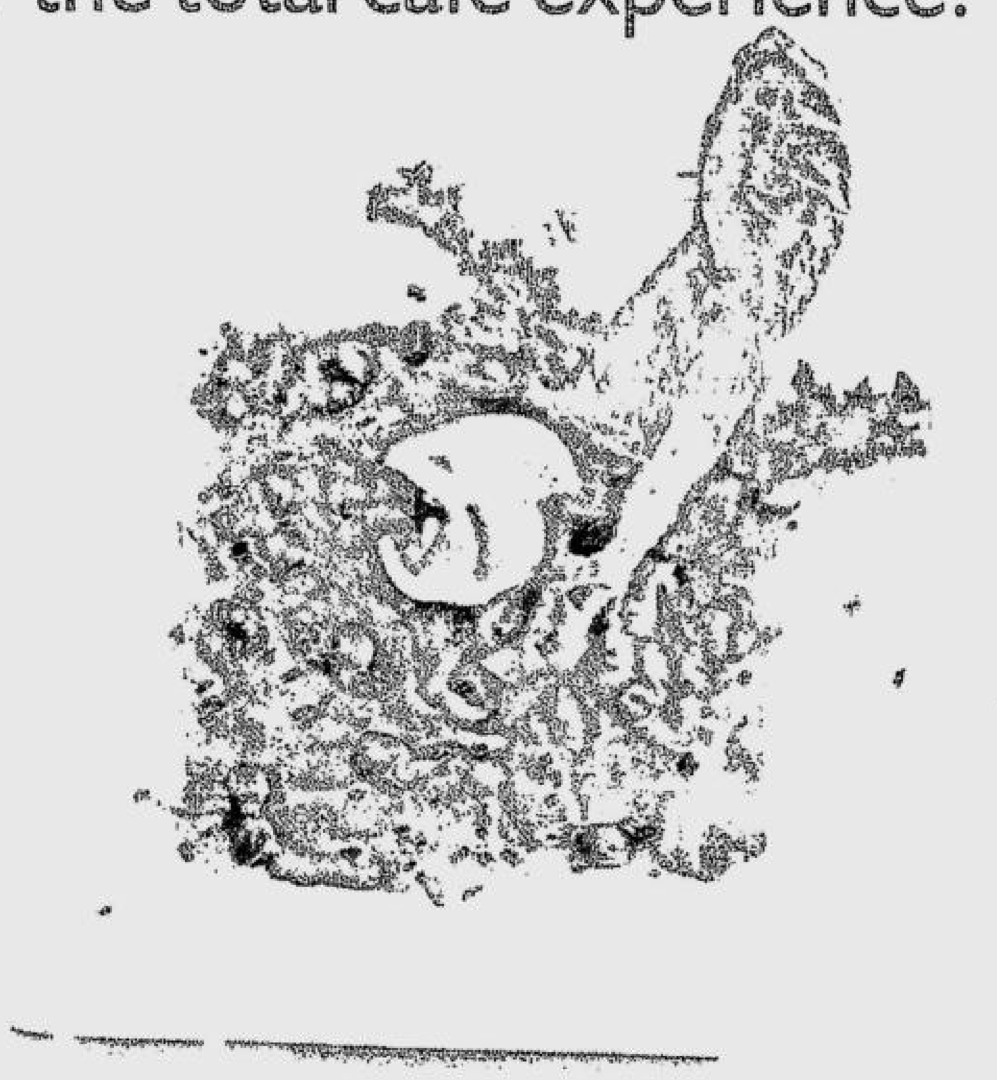
Taste of Italy

Aside from serving espresso blends of cappuccino, latté, macchiato, caffe mocha and icy coffee preparations and European wines, Segafredo Zanetti also offers appetizers, sandwiches, cakes and pastries, panini, pizza, soups, salads, pasta and rice dishes. "This is the first outlet of Segafredo outside of Europe that's allowed to serve meals and wines. In Europe, only coffee, panini, cakes and pastries and salads are offered," Fajardo says.

There are Italian coffee specialties created to satisfy coffee aficionados who covet a drop of coffee before dinner but who also crave liquor: Caffe Correto and Caffe Bacionne (espresso with Bailey's cream liquer) and Millennium Kahlua (fresh milk, Kahlua liquer, coffee ice cream and whipped cream). "It's one of those things that take a little encouragement to try, but if you like coffee, it's a great drink," Fajardo says.

Segafredo Zanetti is open 10 a.m.-12 mn on weekdays and 10 a.m.-3 a.m. on weekends.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



TUNA Carpaccio

Segafredo Zanetti Espresso Bar is now in the Philippines, combining fine dining and the coffee-shop lifestyle in one stop

MILANO Mocca (espresso, chocolate ice cream and whipped cream)

ERNESTO Fajardo sells the Italian coffee experience.

LA San Marco espresso machines that produce different kinds of coffee specialties

TASTEMAKERS

VIVA BRASIL!
A World Cup celebration called "Viva Brasil!" was recently held at the Praia de Ipanema Bar in Eastwood City Walk. The event was hatched by Ipanema president Jimmy Gomez and his wife Bombit. Themed with a Brazilian samba party, the gig was attended by the Guarana band members and Brazilian and Portuguese expats. Guests were given maracas, tambourines and whistles.

HOTEL OPENS BACOLOD MASSKARA FEST
Holiday Inn Manila recently opened the Bacolod Masskara Festival at Café Coquilla. The festival showcases a trade fair at the lobby by the Association of Negros Producers, featuring the best of Bacolod's native products, handicraft and delicacies. Among those who graced the opening were: (left to right) Czarina Gandollas, HIM promo in-charge; Imogene Kana-an, representative, DOT Bacolod City; Gino Mariñas, HIM F&B director; Victoria Jasmin, director, Office of Tourism Standards, DOT; Bernardo Corpus Jr., HIM executive assistant manager; Edwin Trompeta, regional director, DOT Region VI; and Bill Vincent, HIM GM.

ACOLOD
CHICKEN INASAL

ACTORS GRACE RESTO OUTLETS' OPENING
When Bacolod Chicken Inasal opened its newest restaurants at SM Centerpoint and Robinsons Place Manila, commercial model Christian Vasquez, actress Bea Martinez and singer Aliya Parcs attended the event. Also present were Evelina Atienza and Elizabeth Gokongwei. The Tanalgos: Rose, JM and Bing with parents Baby and Jun also invited Masskara dancers from Bacolod.

Tian TEA HOU

CANTONESE RESTAURANT BRANCH OPENS IN MUÑOZ
Hap Tian's 11th branch was formally opened with a dragon dance and ribbon-cutting ceremony participated in by Mutya ng Pilipinas 2001 runner-up Liza Diño and her father, Barangay Captain Martin Diño. The event was graced by former DILG Undersecretary Narciso Santiago and QC Rep. Rey Calalay. Shown in photo are Philip Luy (second from left) of Hap Chan Trading and Management Corp. with Hap Tian Tea House Muñoz branch franchise owner Benny Wong (third from left) with the managers of the Chinese restaurant.

Fast food dining is now a pleasurable experience

FOOD and Art Gallery of Foodparks by Raintree has opened this month. Like the other specialized food court outlets of Foodparks by Raintree, Food and Art Gallery elevates fast food dining into a pleasurable experience.

The venue is an art gallery and a specialty food court, hence the name Food and Art Gallery.

The lineup of food outlets is equally diversified. Food and Art Gallery offers international and local cuisine. Some of the establishments are City Bites, Baliblue (Indonesian), Paotsin (Chinese), Stefanos (Italian), Lola's Kitchen (Filipino), Fleur de Lys, Subway, Sari Shop (Magazine Stand), and New York Café. All food items are reasonably priced.

Above all, the most interesting thing about Food and Art Gallery are the paintings that are displayed in the venue. The artworks found in Food and Art Gallery are all for sale. Ayala Museum is running the museum and gallery. This makes Food and Art Gallery an alternative venue for budding young artists as well as the more established ones.

Food and Art Gallery is at the 12/F of the GT International Tower, De la Costa Street corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Call 752-5681.

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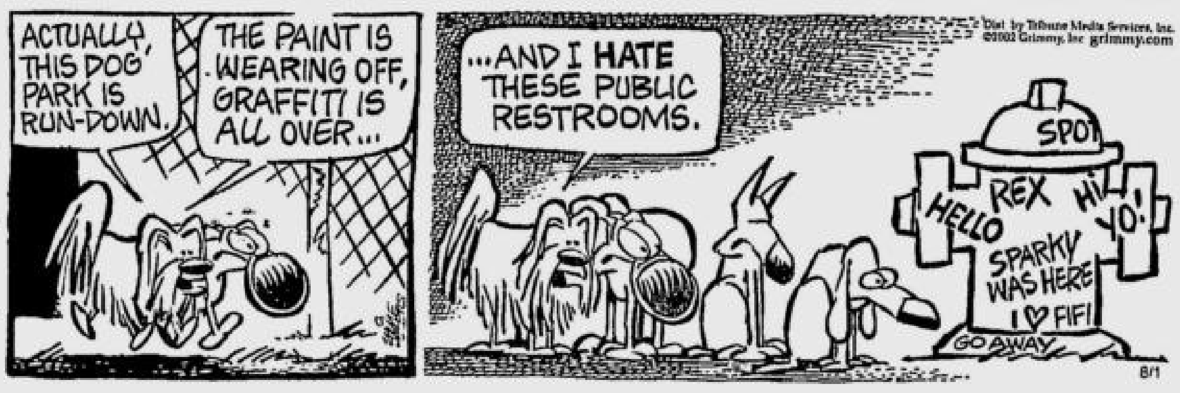
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3076, Series of 2002.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ACTUALLY, THIS DOG PARK IS RUN-DOWN.
THE PAINT IS WEARING OFF, GRAFFITI IS ALL OVER...
...AND I HATE THESE PUBLIC RESTROOMS.
SPOT
REX
HI
HELLO
YO!
SPARKY WAS HERE
I ♥ FIFI
GO AWAY
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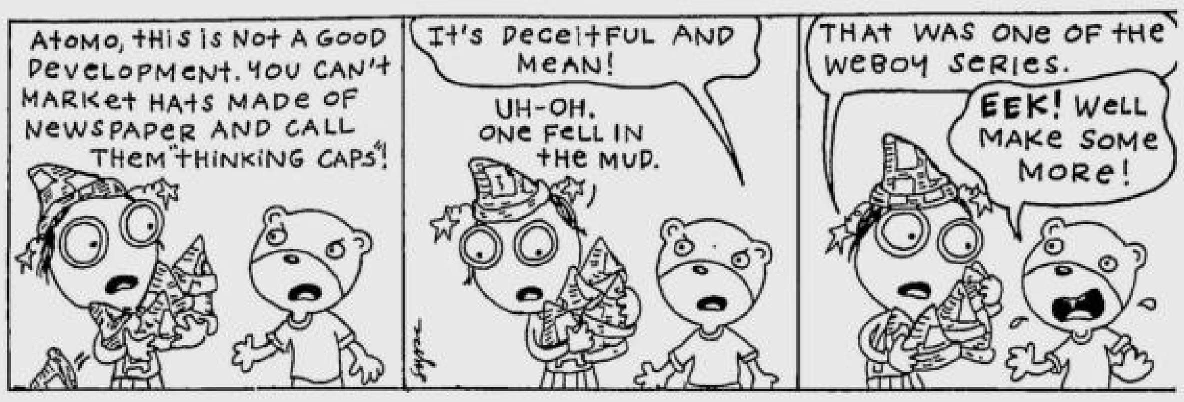
8/1

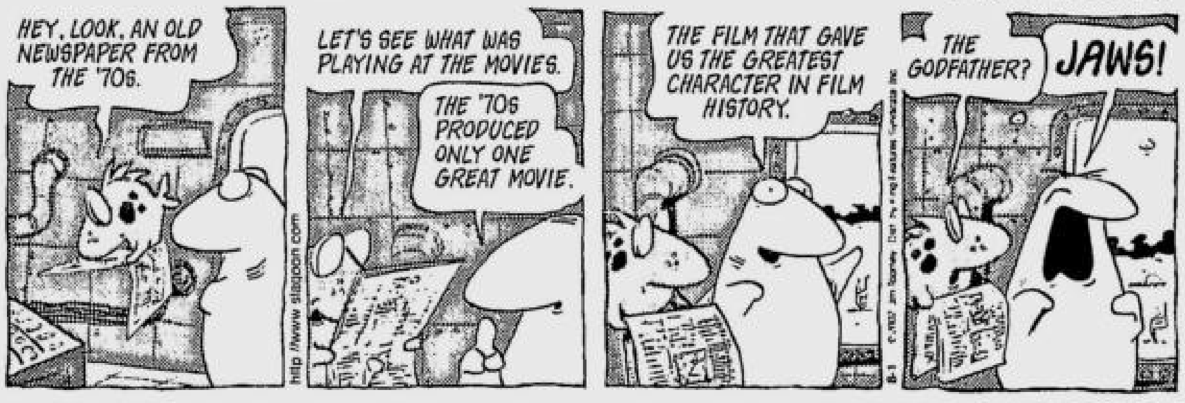
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Atomo, this is Not A Good Development. You can't Market hats made of newspaper and call them "thinking caps"!
It's deceitful and mean!
UH-OH. ONE FELL IN THE MUD.
THAT WAS ONE OF THE WEBOY SERIES.
EEK! Well make some more!

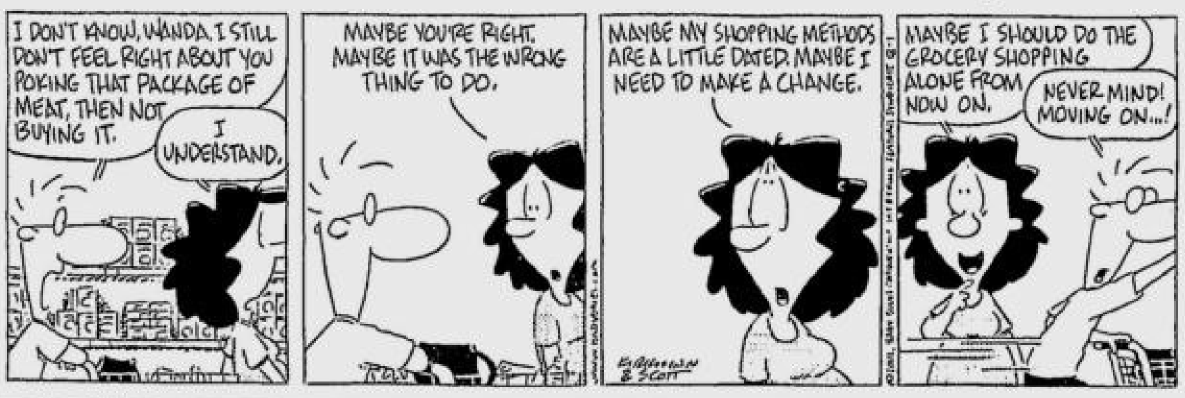
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, LOOK, AN OLD NEWSPAPER FROM THE '70S.
LET'S SEE WHAT WAS PLAYING AT THE MOVIES.
THE '70S PRODUCED ONLY ONE GREAT MOVIE.
THE FILM THAT GAVE US THE GREATEST CHARACTER IN FILM HISTORY.
THE GODFATHER?
JAWS!
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I DON'T KNOW, WANDA. I STILL DON'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT YOU POKING THAT PACKAGE OF MEAT, THEN NOT BUYING IT.
I UNDERSTAND.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE IT WAS THE WRONG THING TO DO.
MAYBE MY SHOPPING METHODS ARE A LITTLE DATED. MAYBE I NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE.
MAYBE I SHOULD DO THE GROCERY SHOPPING ALONE FROM NOW ON.
NEVER MIND! MOVING ON...!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dom DeLuise, Yves Saint Laurent, Tempestt Bledsoe

Happy Birthday: The year ahead can go either way for you, depending on what your input is. Focus on your career or moneymaking ventures. You can work toward a jump in your income over the next couple of years. You may even want to think about starting your own business. Your numbers are 4, 13, 17, 20, 32, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your ambitious nature will lead to advancement. Public recognition will be your goal. Keep in mind that there are other things in life besides work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Love and romance are quite possible today as long as you leave your stubborn attitude at home. Offer your help to an organization you believe in or go out with friends or relatives.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your personal partnership will be going through some unusual trends. Shyness and gullibility will cause some problems. Deception in a relationship is apparent.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You should take an active role in any organization you believe in. Your heart is in the right place, and you will do everything you can to help those less fortunate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be tempted to get involved in other people's affairs today. Stick to work-related matters. If you don't do your fair share today, expect someone to say something.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This is a great day to learn through communicating with friends and getting involved in educational courses. Taking trips, even if they are short, should result in information that is valuable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect to experience a problem when dealing with someone else's affairs. Lending or borrowing money should be avoided. Listen to a proposal being offered but don't sign an agreement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can expect to experience changes in your personal relationship. You will have a change of attitude, and are likely to have to deal with someone who is being unrealistic in his pursuits.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you don't work for yourself, you should consider doing so. If you're quite willing to put in 100 percent, why make someone else rich? It's time you started looking out for yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have plenty of opportunities to form a new friendship or relationship. Your outgoing, diplomatic nature will attract all sorts of interesting people. Your desire will be to share with others.

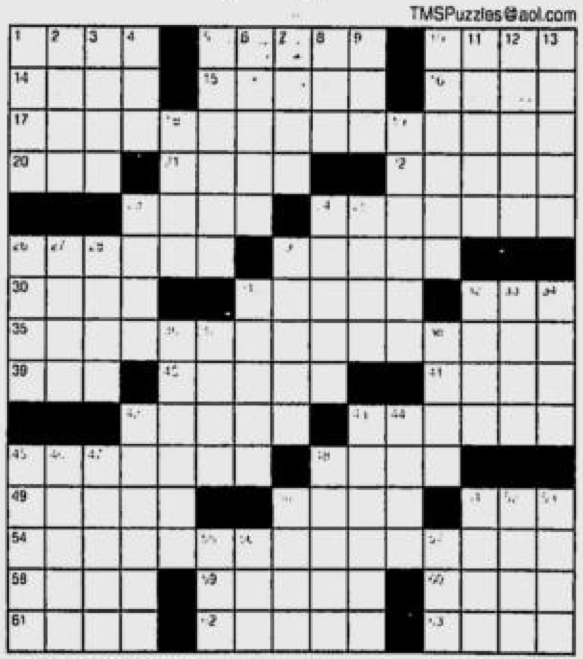
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Home improvement projects will pay off and raise the value of your home. You can make good investments if you are quick to jump on deals that come your way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be aggressive in your pursuit of knowledge. You'll be bored if you have to deal with someone who isn't up to your intellectual level. Don't let your heart rule your head.

Birthday Baby: You will be ready to face any challenge that comes your way. You are determined to do what you want and are never willing to give up on anything or anyone.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

8/1/02

ACROSS
1 Baroque master
5 Talking parrot
10 Methods
14 Up to the job
15 Bakery come-on
16 Bard grad, e.g.
17 Try not to stand out
20 North Pole denizen
21 Choir part
22 Carouse
23 Relinquish
24 Most meager
26 Landed property
29 Proofreader's notations
30 Minuscule pond plant
31 Make amends
32 Tango number
35 Try not to be seen
39 Old seafarer
40 Not fulfilled
41 Samson's pride
42 Word on a door
43 __ Leone
45 Ideal
48 Gluttons
49 Slack off
50 Only fair
51 Exploit
54 Try not to be followed
58 Even one time
59 Hose off
60 Cut back
61 Refute
62 Senior
63 A piece of cake

DOWN
1 Swelter
2 One of Eve's boys
3 Staff sign
4 With it, once
5 Ailment
6 Popped up
7 Intimidates
8 Electric meas.
9 Word with cry or chest
10 Thin, crisp cookies
11 Animated
12 Christmases
13 Refine ore
18 Help with a heist
19 Spoke from a soapbox
23 Ali, formerly
24 Summer ermine
25 Teller's partner
26 Captivated
27 Jazzy Fitzgerald
28 Lab medium
29 Take the helm
31 Madison Ave. chaps
32 Rip
33 Low dam
34 Gumbo ingredient
36 Craving
37 Division word
38 Females
42 Greasy spoon
43 Cloisters resident
44 Frankenstein's gofer
45 Took measured steps
46 __ all (especially)
47 Baltimore player
48 Sheriff's followers
50 Broadcast
51 USC rival
52 Slalom equipment
53 Catch sight of
55 Unrefined mineral
56 Zero
57 Pass with flying colors

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	A	S	S	■	D	E	N	I	M	■	P	H	I	L
A	N	T	I	■	E	N	A	T	E	■	R	E	N	O
F	O	U	R	P	L	A	Y	O	N	W	O	R	D	S
E	N	D	■	R	A	M	S	■	■	A	N	D	Y	S
■	■	■	N	I	N	E	■	P	E	R	T	■	■	■
A	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	M	O	O	S	E
D	R	O	V	E	■	■	C	A	L	S	■	H	A	G
L	A	V	A	■	L	A	T	H	S	■	B	A	B	A
A	W	E	■	S	U	L	U	■	■	S	A	R	O	D
I	L	L	I	C	I	T	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	S
■	■	■	N	O	S	E	■	O	B	I	T	■	■	■
T	A	E	G	U	■	■	P	I	L	L	■	T	A	T
M	I	N	E	R	V	I	O	L	A	T	I	O	N	S
E	D	N	A	■	I	N	L	E	T	■	T	U	N	A
N	E	A	R	■	A	N	O	D	E	■	S	T	A	R

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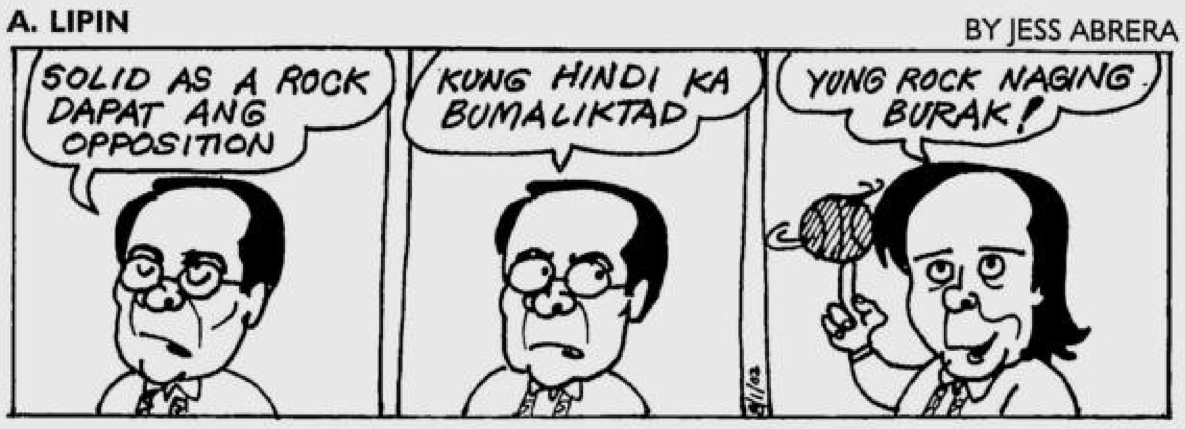
8/1/02

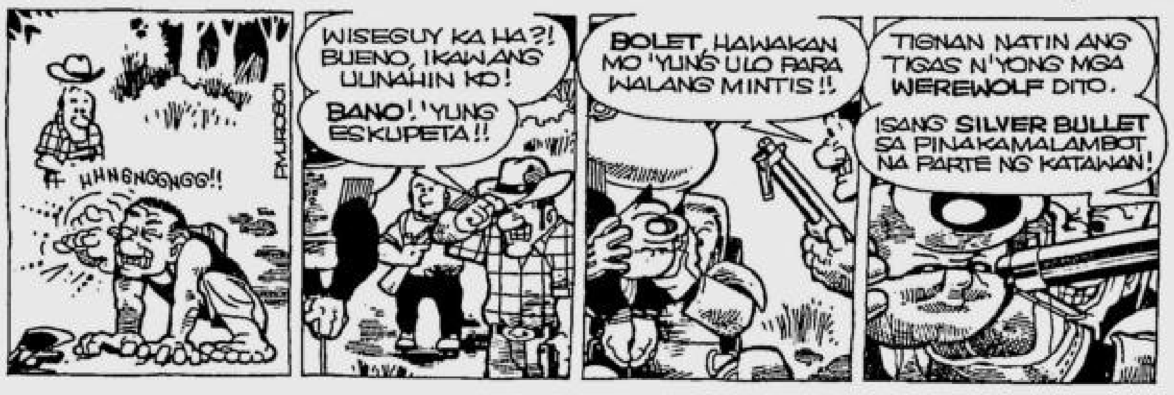
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SOLID AS A ROCK DAPAT ANG OPPOSITION
KUNG HINDI KA BUMALIKTAD
YUNG ROCK NAGING BURAK!
8/1/02

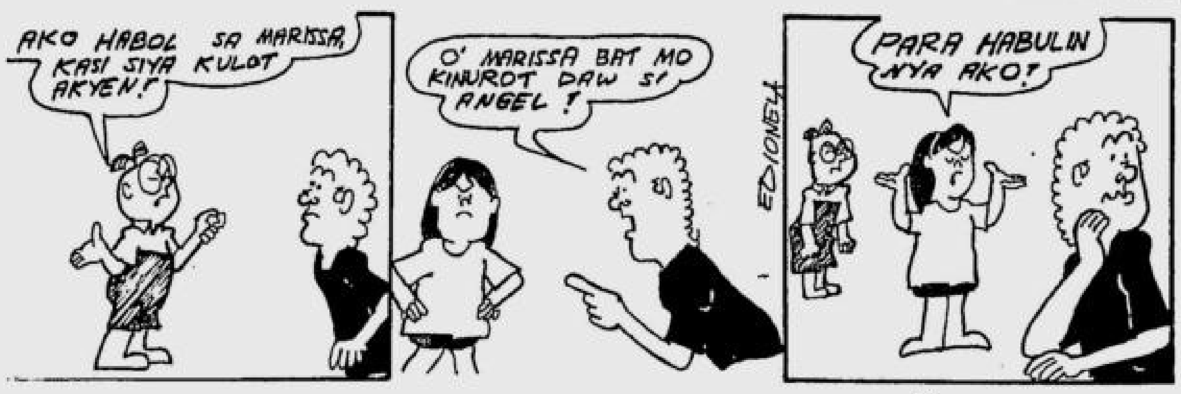
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HHNGNGGNGG!!
PMJR0801
WISEGUY KA HA?! BUENO, IKAW ANG UUNAHIN KO!
BANO! 'YUNG ESKUPETA!!
BOLET, HAWAKAN MO 'YUNG ULO PARA WALANG MINTIS!!
TIGNAN NATIN ANG TIGAS N'YONG MGA WEREWOLF DITO.
ISANG SILVER BULLET SA PINAKAMALAMBOT NA PARTE NG KATAWAN!

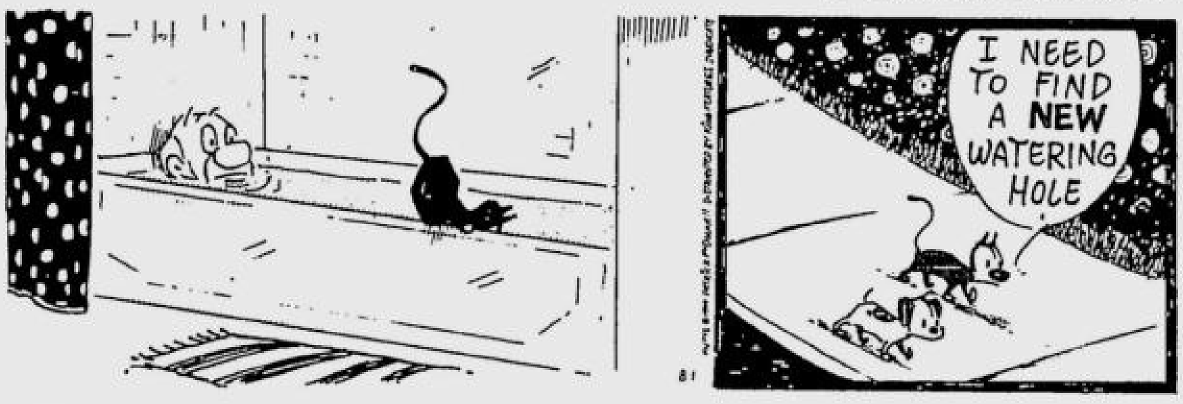
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


AKO HABOL SA MARISSA, KASI SIYA KULOT AKYEN!
O' MARISSA BAT MO KINUROT DAW SI ANGEL !
EDIONELA
PARA HABULIN NYA AKO?

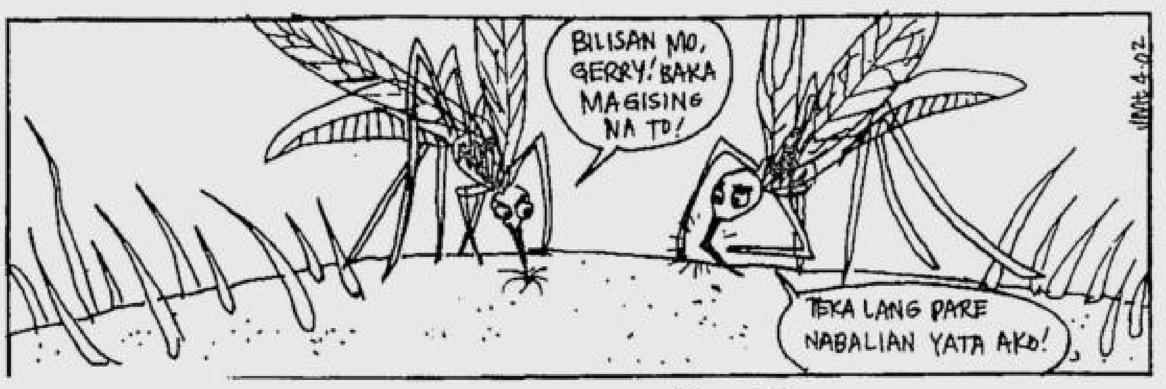
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I NEED TO FIND A NEW WATERING HOLE
8-1

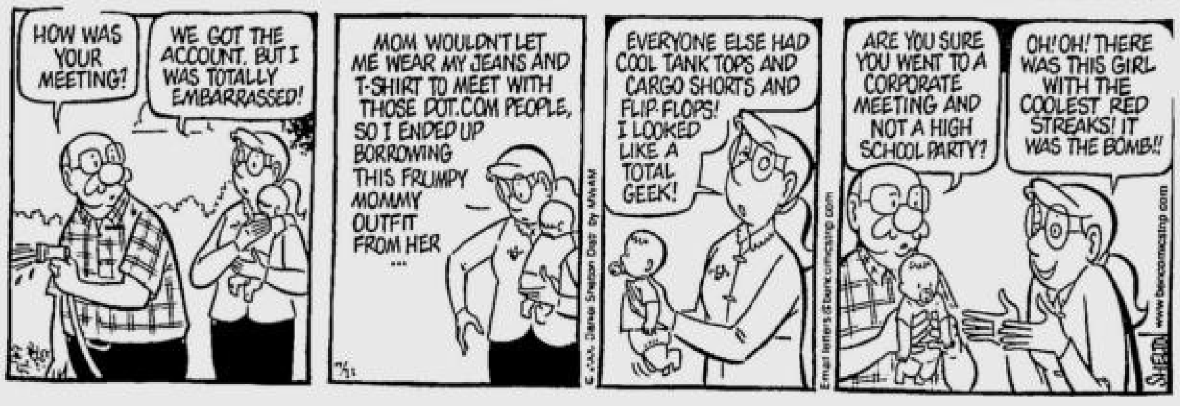
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BILISAN MO, GERRY! BAKA MAGISING NA TO!
TEKA LANG PARE NABALIAN YATA AKO!

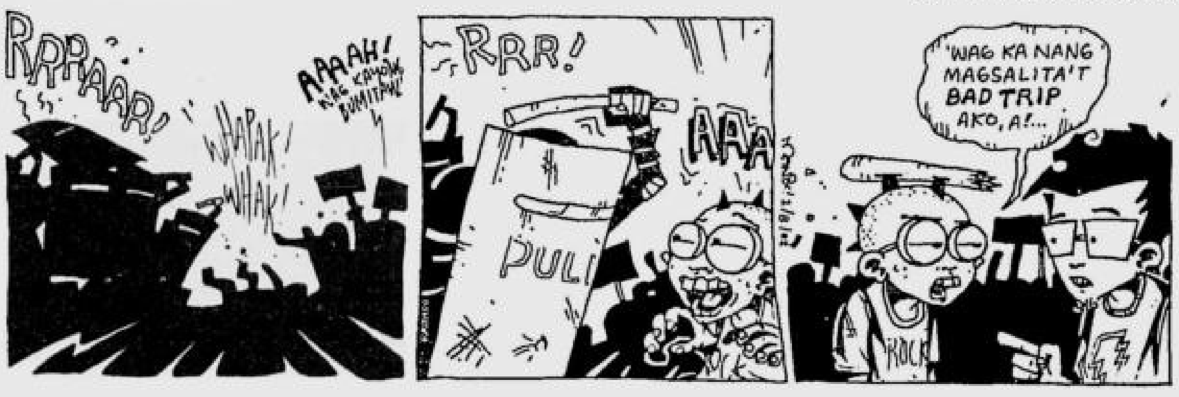
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW WAS YOUR MEETING?
WE GOT THE ACCOUNT. BUT I WAS TOTALLY EMBARRASSED!
MOM WOULDN'T LET ME WEAR MY JEANS AND T-SHIRT TO MEET WITH THOSE DOT.COM PEOPLE, SO I ENDED UP BORROWING THIS FRUMPY MOMMY OUTFIT FROM HER ...
EVERYONE ELSE HAD COOL TANK TOPS AND CARGO SHORTS AND FLIP-FLOPS! I LOOKED LIKE A TOTAL GEEK!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WENT TO A CORPORATE MEETING AND NOT A HIGH SCHOOL PARTY?
OH! OH! THERE WAS THIS GIRL WITH THE COOLEST RED STREAKS! IT WAS THE BOMB!!
www.bencomicstrip.com

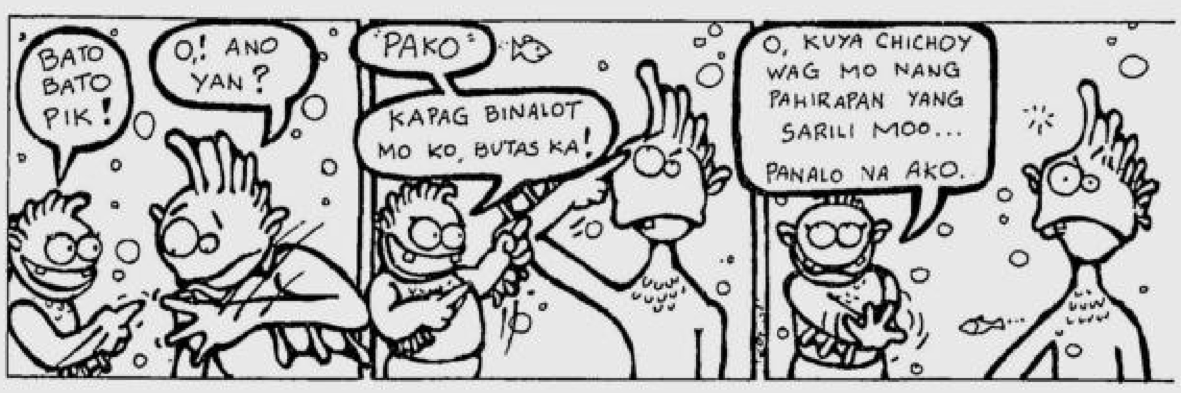
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


RRRAAAR!
WHAPAK! WHAK!
AAAAH! MAG KAHOY BUMITAW!
RRR!
PULI
AAA
'WAG KA NANG MAGSALITA'T BAD TRIP AKO, A!...
ROCK

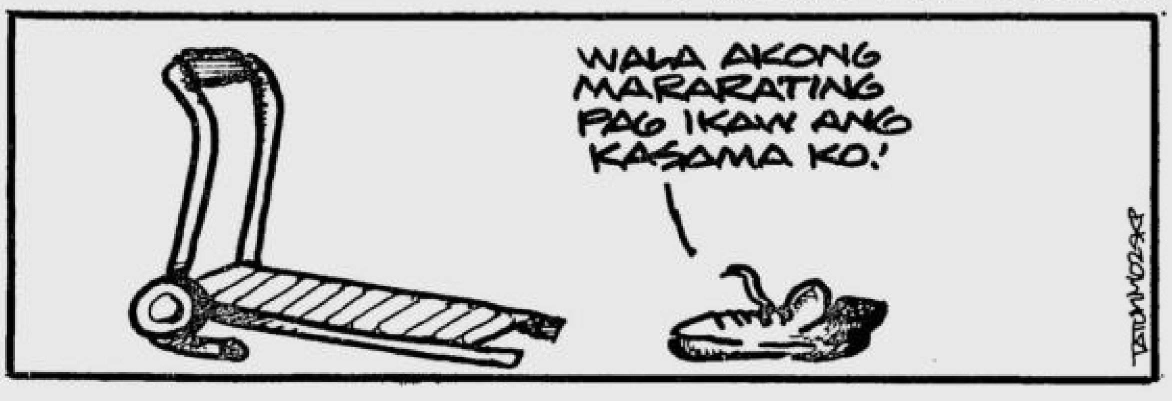
CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO

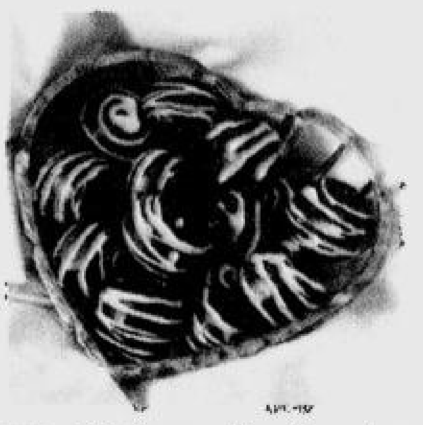

BATO BATO PIK!
O,! ANO YAN?
PAKO
KAPAG BINALOT MO KO, BUTAS KA!
O, KUYA CHICHOY WAG MO NANG PAHIRAPAN YANG SARILI MOO...
PANALO NA AKO.

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WALA AKONG MARARATING PAG IKAW ANG KASAMA KO!
TATUM MOZAR

Yummy choco dessert



Rum Balls

1 639-g box Betty Crocker Supreme Brownie mix
¼ c water
1/3 c vegetable or cooking oil
2 eggs
½ c sifted confectioners' sugar
1 c ground nuts
2 tbsp cocoa powder
2 tbsp corn syrup
4 tbsp rum
2 c semisweet chocolate

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease bottom of a nine-inch square pan. Stir brownie mix, pouch of Hershey's syrup, water, oil and eggs in medium bowl until well blended. Spread in pan. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until the toothpick inserted two inches from side of pan comes out clean or almost clean. Cool.

Grate some of the baked brownies. Measure 1 c and combine with the sugar, nuts and cocoa powder. Blend well, then add the syrup and rum. Mix thoroughly. Shape into balls. Chill for 10 minutes.

Melt chocolate in the microwave oven or in a double boiler. Dip chilled rum balls to coat completely. Place on a tray lined with plastic or aluminum foil. Chill until set. If desired, drizzle with white chocolate.

Recipe courtesy of the Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center. Call 892-1185.

PEACH Croissant, P80.

Enjoy deli meals with tea

WITH Delifrance Tea Time set meals, enjoy six different sets with free coffee or iced lemon tea. Six deli sets will satisfy your cravings in a minute. Choose from the Canapés set, Delicioso Sardines sandwich, Peach Croissant, Quiche set, Butter Croissant served with butter and jam, and Hotdog sandwich. The Delifrance Tea Time set meals are available until Aug. 15.

Cool flavors of fruits

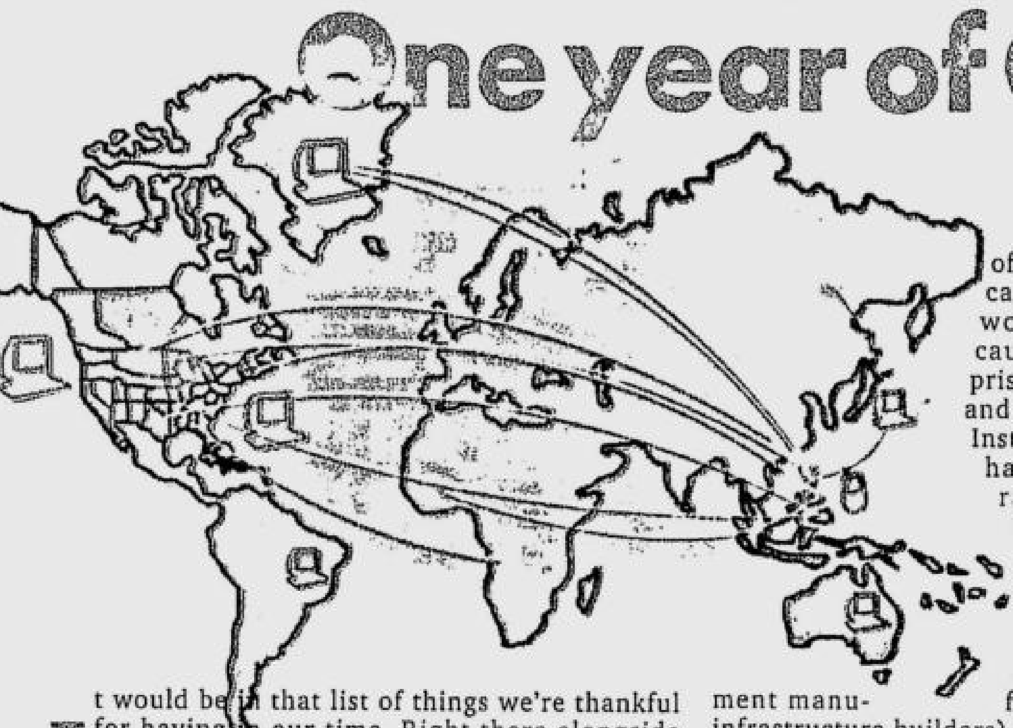
ICE cream lovers can now enjoy real ice cream with Fruits in Ice Cream (FIC). FIC is a rich and creamy dessert with real fruit bits that uses 100-percent milk-derived fat, unlike other local brands that use common vegetable fats. This makes FIC smoother in texture and richer in flavor. The brand has premium flavors such as Mango, Ube, Halo-Halo, Vanilla, Tsokolate, Cappuccino, Green Tea, Rocky Road, Cookies N' Cream and Nangkasuy. There are also gourmet flavors—Macapuno, Strawberry and Durian, and Raspberry Rapture.

Fruits in Ice Cream doesn't contain preservatives. It's the only Philippine-made premium ice cream that passed the very strict standards of the Ministry of Health in Japan. Its exclusive distributor, Kobo Company Limited, has been successfully selling the product in specialty shops in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Okinawa and Kyushu since 1997. Aside from Japan, FIC is also being exported to Hawaii and the US West Coast.

Due to the success of the brand, The Food People Inc. is expanding the business and opening it to franchising. According to Dida Ongkiko of TFPI marketing, "Currently, we have franchise scooping stations at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell and Shopwise Libis. We are very pleased that people have expressed interest in our product and are willing to set up their own Fruits in Ice Cream scooping station. We welcome entrepreneurs that believe in our brand and in our commitment of producing high-quality ice cream."

Those interested in setting up their own scooping station may call 724-7038 or 724-7048.

One year of Chikka texting!



It would be in that list of things we're thankful for having in our time. Right there alongside vending machines, mass transit systems, great coffee places, National Geographic channel and dressed-down Fridays.

Chikka is that downloadable program that occupies a corner of your computer screen and lets you send and receive text messages to and from any GSM mobile phone in the Philippines.

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2002 8:41 PM
To: support@chikka.com; mailus@chikka.com
Subject: Commentaries!

Hi There,

Good day to all of you there KABAYANS!!!!

I just want to commend you for a GREAT software which
we OFWs are using here in Riyadh,KSA and I think in all parts of the world..

Do you know that most of the PCs here in Saudi has your software? Amazing but true because most of the pinoys like me are using it...

Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2002 11:44 AM
To: mailus@chikka.com
Subject: Thank you Chikka!

Dear Chikka;

I am mother of two beautiful daughters who are going to college at USC in Los Angeles. I am happy with Chikka, it allows my daughters to keep in touch with me. It is not easy having them there. I worry about them. At least with Chikka I know that they are safe because they can send me text messages almost everyday.

More power to Chikka!
Nancy

Sent: Tuesday, Aug 30, 2001 3:04 PM
To: mailus@chikka.com
Subject: CHIKKA YOU'RE THE BEST!

Dearest Chikka,

My deepest gratitude to everyone at Chikka. Now I am able to send my wife text messages from my computer. I wish you guys great success!!

Allan

Sent: Wednesday, November 21, 2001 1:16 PM
To: mailus@chikka.com
Subject: I praise you Chikka Team!

Dear Chikka Team,

Hello? how are you doin? Hi my name is Duke from Canada. I would like to thank you for making text messaging available free to PC users. I can now communicate with my friends back there in the Philippines without loosing any bucks! My friend told me about using Chikka. At first I didn't believe him but as soon I downloaded it and receive authorization from my friends! I praised him and Chikka. Its so easy to use! Just wanna say im really happy that Chikka was made.

Chikka Asia, Inc., the company that developed the application has received letters from all over the world, from overseas Filipinos as well as foreigners who are delighted that they are able to send free text messages to friends and relatives. In places like Hawaii, the East and West Coasts of the US and the Middle East, Chikka is already a household word among Filipino residents.

"It's really more than the fact that ChikkaTxting from a PC is free. It's about being able to participate in the great messaging revolution that has really made SMS, a way of life in the Philippines today," says Chikka CEO Dennis Mendiola.

In other words, they know that if you want anybody's attention the Philippines, whether he's in a jeepney or in the Boardroom, "*I-text mo na lang* (just text)"

ChikkaTxt Messenger was launched one year ago after months of development work aimed at building the world's first mobile Instant Messenger. The idea was to marry two "killer apps," Instant Messaging which was already popular among millions of PC users especially in the United States and SMS (Short Message Service) which at that time, was already catching fire in the Philippines and all over Europe.

Silicon 'Valle'

From their Pasig City offices helped by venture capital, Pinoy techies at work on the "project" caught the world by surprise as they filed patents and completed the Mobile Instant Messenger. (There had been a worldwide race to build it and those who had a stake included some of the world's most important software developers, network architects, telco equipment manufacturers and infrastructure builders).

Next, they amazed the community, by launching ChikkaTxt Messenger successively with Philippine GSM operators who together produced 20% of world SMS volume.

Pinoys rock!

Chikka and partner GSM carriers truly make us Filipinos proud. Sure, as we are the acknowledged SMS Capital of the world, but also by establishing the Philippines as one of the world's most important centers for wireless applications development.

"Chikka applications are world class, also because they were designed for, and tested with what is probably the most advanced texting culture of all—that of Filipnos. We have the Philippine GSM operators to thank, for this advantage Pinoys now possess," says Mendiola.

"In our discussions with foreign carriers, for example, we are instantly acknowledged, respected even. I think this so, only because our Philippine GSM operators Smart and Globe have lent their names to our applications."

According to Mendiola, they (Chikka) are viewed as "exporters" of the texting culture.

Only one year from their launch, Chikka now has over 1.5 million subscribers and a full range of mobile Value Added Services (VAS). The subscriber base includes PC users from over 100 countries and cellular phone users who love the fact the ChikkaTxt-ing is as easy as texting and "texting back," now second nature to Filipinos of all ages and from all walks of life.

A day in the life of a "Content Provider

Dressed down workdays, cafe latte, and venture capital funding are the elements of a dream occupation.

"But that is only what people see!" swears Mendiola whose long time occupation was really as an investment banker covering regional markets for the likes of Morgan Stanley and Bankers Trust.

"Our product development process has proven highly stressful. A lot of the things we are doing have never been done before and therefore have no existing models to follow, except maybe in the Internet world, *eh, ibang planeta na yun!*"

"Thus, a day in Chikka would see this virtual ping pong game between product developers and our Quality Assurance people!" adds Mendiola.

In the end the ball would come from Quality Assurance of course, before the marketing people run with it and towards the corporate offices of the telco carriers who would as a matter of course, test them anew.

There are many customer comments, too especially during "beta" launches of products. Chikka customer service receives many emails and calls. There was this one particular email which broke people's hearts some months back. It was a user requesting for her Chikka account to be cancelled or deleted. As they related: "We detected a certain fear in this person's email, she was under pressure from an angry parent according to her. She ends the email by saying, "I am only nine years old!"

Although all Chikka products, especially the messaging products, require explicit subscriber permission to add buddies and to send and receive messages from another user, many users do accept the invites of strangers. Users have reported being the victim of very sick jokes. And then of course, for the more anonymous chat applications, you would always see people trying to creatively work around filters that are in place, so as to send vulgar messages to people in the chat rooms.

And then Chikka occasionally deals with cheaters. It's all part of business. From petty attempts to circumvent the carriers "PC credit limits" of some 25 messages per day by creating multiple accounts, all the way to attempts to illegally secure promo prizes by misusing Chikka applications. "We've seen it all in one year," Mendiola sighs, "and they've always been thwarted."

It is difficult to escape the dragnet of combined Chikka and Telco carrier forces it seems.

There will always be people who would try to abuse or go around systems. Vigilance is required. In the same way our world leaders today call for this, vigilance. And why not? Chikka and partner carriers defend nothing less than "a way of life" that is Responsible Texting.

Patented ways

Chikka and affiliate Bidshot Wireless services have made full use of patent pending SMS menu and dynamic numbering systems for its ChikkaTxt Messenger, Bidshot Auction, and Crushcow matching services.

Chikka Holdings, Ltd.'s Singapore-registered subsidiary, Chikka Pte, Ltd., holds title to all of Chikka's intellectual property assets, including all international treaty and national patents, brand names, trademarks, and service marks.

Chikka and Bidshot chose Singapore, as this extends patent protection in most major wireless markets, including many European countries. National patents were filed in the Philippines and United States as well.

Download the latest version of ChikkaTxt Messenger at www.chikka.com or send "I-chat" to 277 (Smart) and "IM" to 2371 (Globe).

chikka™

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Rosa Rosal

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

PIZZA! PIZZA!
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THAI pork balls go well with Sutter Home's Red Zinfandel or Shizar from Yalumba.

Dishing it out on a rainy day

Text by Cathy Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

DISH, the entertainment and dining complex at the Power Plant Mall, has long been synonymous with great, affordable food and fantastic bands. Since July 16, it has been holding a month-long wine festival from 4-7 p.m., Monday to Friday, offering its regulars an all-you-can-drink wine buffet. The Philippine Wine Merchants (PWM) and Best World Beverage Brands provide a selection of 14 different wines from Spain, France, Italy and Chile. To complement the wines, the various outlets at Dish create several complementary entrees and appetizers.

Tess Litton, owner of S, one of the outlets at Dish together with Alex Joseph, sales manager for PWM, laid out several wines that rainy afternoon when the festival opened. Joseph said that Queso Relleno y Frito (Breaded fried cheese sticks with anchovies) and Thai pork balls go well with a Red Zinfandel from Sutter Home or a Shiraz from Yalumba. "Red Zinfandel is a medium-bodied, dry red wine that boasts fragrant, raspberry-like aromas and a smooth zesty flavor. It goes very well with pizza, pasta or grilled meats," Joseph said. "Shiraz on the other hand, is an elegant and premium red wine that gives off classic Shiraz aromas of stewed plums. It is soft with a rich texture, and has the flavors of ripe red berries, star anise and spice," Joseph added. The Yalumba has a colorful 150-year history and is the oldest family-owned winery in Australia.

Litton also brought out a delicious paté with melba toast, and Joseph suggested pairing it with either Cruse Beaujolais from France or a Bolla Valpolicella classico from Italy. The Cruse Beaujolais is a light red wine, young and fresh in color, which develops flowery and fruity aromas with a hint of boiled sweets; it has a very light tannic. Valpolicella Classico on the other hand, is a dry, full and well-balanced wine with a spicy

DISHING/ p.D2

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CLINICA MANILA, 3F Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg., Glorietta, Mkt.
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, 2nd Flr. Festival Supermall (Plaza Forest Entrance)
• 3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
PAMPANGA AMBULATORY CLINIC, Gapan Olongapo Rd., Front of Carworld, San Fernando Pampanga
WEIGH LESS CAGAYAN, Don Apolinar Velez corner Cayetano Pacana St., Cagayan de Oro City
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To join zed Logo Loco, type **JOIN LOGOLOCO <name> <address> <birthdate (mmddyy)> <gender>** and send to **288**. Type **HELP LOGOLOCO** and send to **288** for more info. Or type **RANDOMLOGO** and send to **288** to get a random list of keywords of logos. This promotion is open to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1351, series of 2002

Spotlight on

Intel Sound Morpher.jpg

RED Zinfandel goes well with pizza, pasta or grilled meats.

Dishing it out on a rainy day

From page D1

flavor of cherries, berries and other dark fruits. "This ruby, red wine is particularly good with meat dishes such as roast beef, beef stew and lamb, or highly seasoned cheeses," Joseph explained.

A platter of oysters in half shell tastes even better with a glass of Sauvignon Blanc from the Stoneleigh vineyards in New Zealand. Sauvignon Blanc displays a fragrant bouquet of passion fruit and dry grass aromas. "It offers a good texture, with a palate of rich ripe passion fruit and clean, crisp apple flavors. This wine is best enjoyed with white meat and seafood dishes," Joseph said.

The wine buffet ranges from P350 to P550 per person depending on the wine of choice—regular or premium. The entrees are at an additional cost. So, on a rainy afternoon when you hanker for a java or a cup of tea, think of another alternative—glasses of wine to warm you, and oysters or paté to feed your soul.

Email the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Dish at Power Plant lays out the ultimate comfort-food festival

OYSTERS taste better with Sauvignon Blanc.

Perk up your rainy days

WASH out your family's rainy weather blues and bring warmth to the wet-weather dinner table by cooking these delicious yet no nonsense dishes. Created by culinary experts Chef Nancy-Reyes Lumen and Chef Ponz Cordero exclusively for Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce, these classic recipes combine the traditional tastes of Filipino cooking with the world-class appeal of marinades. Just add a tablespoon of Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce to your favorite *adobo* recipe (or any dish) and discover the difference. Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce is another quality product from HP Foods Ltd. of the United Kingdom.

Adobo Wings

(by Chef Nancy Reyes-Lumen)

½ head garlic, pounded
6 chicken wings, washed and patted dry
1 packet instant *adobo* powder mix
4 tbsp light beer
2 tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
3 tbsp softened butter
1 leaf green and dried laurel
a pinch of coarse salt and pepper

Marinate chicken wings in Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce, beer, salt and pepper at least 15 minutes out of the refrigerator.

Prepare *adobo* mix as per packet instructions and simmer at low heat. In another skillet, heat some of the butter and brown the chicken wings. As chicken wings turn brown, drop pieces into the *adobo* sauce until all pieces are cooked. Smash garlic and add this to the pan. Add marinade and some more butter and continue to simmer, this time covered, for five minutes. Serve hot. (You can pick out the garlic bits and fry in butter until golden and use as garnish. You can also add mashed chicken livers to further enrich the sauce.) For a more distinct beer flavor, try using dark beer.

GRILLED Pork Skewers

Grilled Pork Skewers

(by Chef Ponz Cordero)

600 g pork tenderloin, sliced into 20-g pieces

Peanut Curry:

3 ½ tbsp fresh roasted peanuts
3 tbsp sesame oil
75 g onions, roughly chopped
40 g garlic cloves
40 g lemon grass
1 tsp fresh cilantro, roughly chopped with stems
1 tsp fresh chili pepper
1 tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
2 tbsp fish sauce (*patis*)
2 tsp Spanish paprika
1 tsp ground cumin
½ cup coconut milk
75 g sugar
2 tbsp lemon juice
2 tbsp salt and pepper to taste

Combine all the curry ingredients except for pork. Purée in a food processor or a blender until smooth. Place the pork tenderloin pieces in the marinade and, leave overnight. Skewer pork pieces on wooden skewers. Grill over hot charcoal until cooked. Heat leftover sauce, adjust with stock and seasoning. Serve with steamed rice and buttered vegetables.

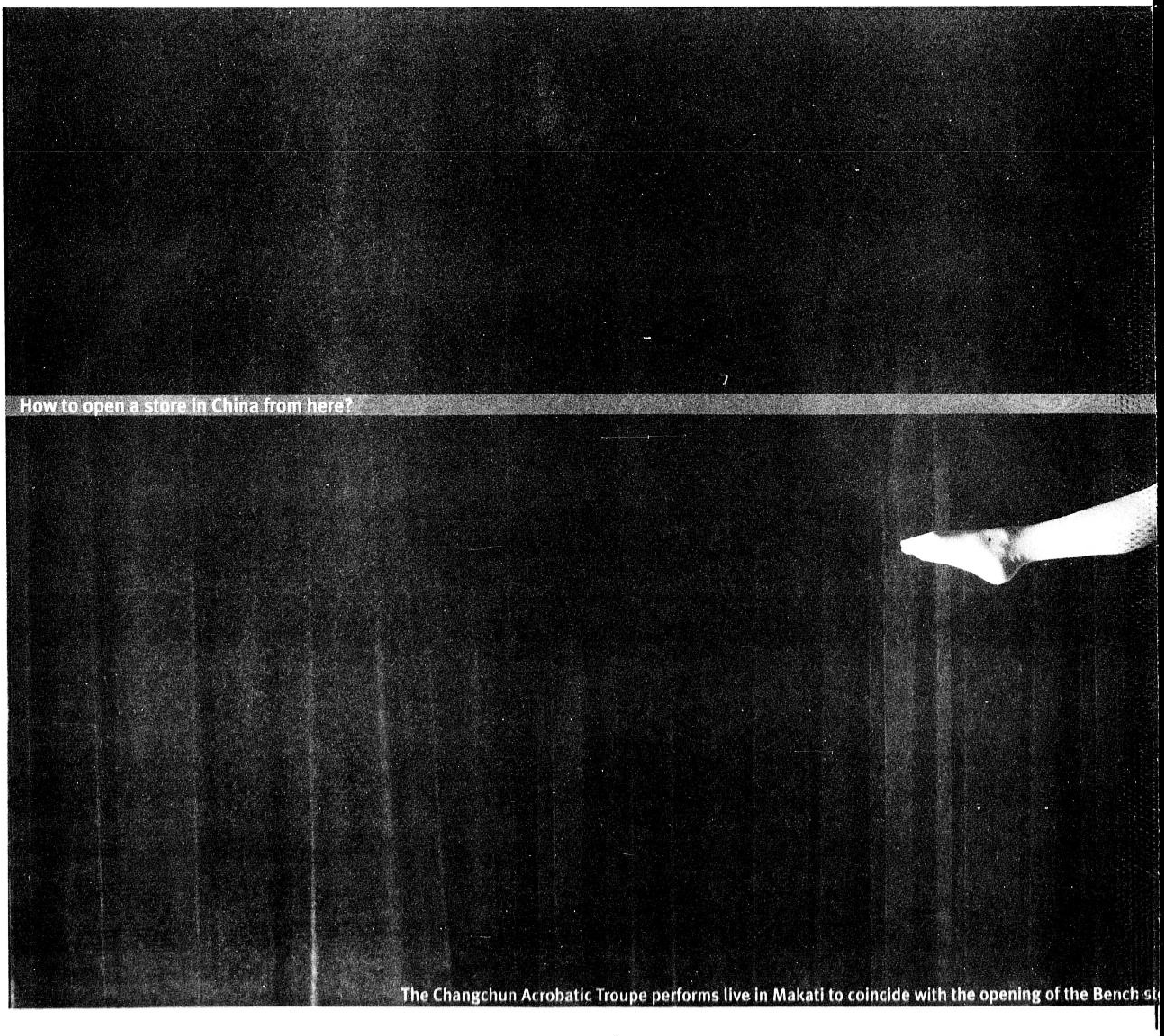
TUNA Adobo Teriyaki

Tuna Adobo Teriyaki

(by Chef Ponz Cordero)

600 g tuna steak (4 pcs, 150 g)
2 tsp canola oil
30 g onions, finely minced
30 g tomato paste
5 tbsp lemon juice
5 tbsp Lea & Perrins Barbecue Sauce
1 c light brown sugar
1 tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
1 tsp freshly ground pepper
4 tbsps *sake*
4 tbsp *mirin*, Japanese sweet cooking wine
4 tbsps Japanese soy sauce
5/8 c white sugar
30 g ginger, finely sliced

Lightly fry the onion in canola oil until translucent. Add all the remaining ingredients. Boil and simmer for 15 minutes until reduced to ¼. Remove from heat and leave the sauce to cool until lightly thick. Marinate the tuna pieces for one to two hours. Grill tuna over charcoal, quickly on both sides, to leave fish still rare in the center. Serve with hot rice and stir fried vegetables. Warm sauce and serve with dish if desired.


How to open a store in China from here?
The Changchun Acrobatic Troupe performs live in Makati to coincide with the opening of the Bench st

Relish the sweet life at new café

DINING OUT

JACK'S LOFT NEW AGE CAFÉ is located in the heart of Eastwood City Walk in Libis, QC. Guests can start with thick soups—wild mushroom, French onion or carrot pumpkin—and garlic mushrooms, sizzling gambas or chicken fingers. Main dishes include spaghetti pomodoro, pasta putanesca with grilled chicken, four mushroom, and the classic carbonara and penne in tomato sauce. Rice plates are also available. For dessert, there are puffs, cookies, bars, tiramisu, muffins, danishes and Jack's Cheesecakes. Jack's Loft is open from lunch time to late midnight and accepts parties and special occasions. Call 421-2048 to 49.

GARDEN'S CAFÉ offers "Action-Packed Buffet" at Edsa Shangri-La, Manila. Aside from daily stations such as Japanese (with sashimi and *maki* rolls), the Make Your Own Salad and the Roast US Prime Rib Carvery (plus Roast Baron of Lamb or Sugar-glazed Ham), new stations spice up lunch and dinner buffet. Garden Cafe's buffet has a "Fish/Seafood of the Day" and a wide selection of cold appetizers. As a bonus treat, those who dine in 20 persons get a complimentary overnight stay for two. Call 633-8888 local 2738 or 2739.

THE PENINSULA MANILA, in cooperation with the Ayala Center, celebrates "Taste of Asean." The Peninsula Manila's Spices Restaurant will be presenting weekly specials from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. Guests will also be entitled to win dining prizes by simply dropping their call cards and filling up the promo form. Spices a la carte menu will also be available to diners. Call 887-2888 local 2168 and 2956.

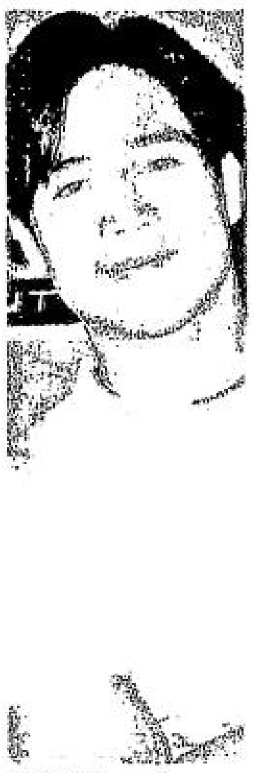
MANILA GALLERIA SUITES celebrates the flavors of *kimchi* and other popular fares of the northern Orient in a Korean Food Festival at the hotel's Raphael Café-Restaurant until Aug. 4. Enjoy Barbecued Goose with Chestnuts, Thin Buckwheat Vermicelli, Yellow Noodles with seafood mix, Bulgogi with Pear Salad, Soft Bean Curd, Shrimps and Chive Pancake, Spicy White Fish Fillet, Fried Octopus Strips in Hot Sauce, Grilled Spiced Mackerel and Crab Stew. Korean Food Festival is served for lunch and dinner. Call 633-7111 locals 7440 and 7416.

HYATT REGENCY MANILA offers a taste of Malaysia on Aug. 7-18 at the Café Al Fresco. Guest chefs Khairil Anuar Bin Sumari and Mahmur Bin Abas from Hyatt Regency Johor Bahru will showcase hot and spicy Sambal dip, special rice and noodle recipes, as well as curries, and coconut-based mutton, chicken, beef and seafood specialties. Featured desserts are Buah Melaka, Bubur Kacang Hijau and Kuih Lapis, Agar Agar Santan (mango pineapple jelly), water chestnut in syrup and Malaysian tropical fruits. Call 833-1234.

THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA'S CHINA SEA RESTAURANT offers crabs cooked in various ways—spicy, baked and steamed. All crab dishes are cooked in authentic Cantonese style By Hong Kong master chef Sin Kwok Fail. Available in a la carte for lunch and dinner until Aug. 31. Call 551-5555 local 1528 or 1530.

"TASTE of Asean" at the Peninsula Manila's Spices Restaurant

Piolo Pascual savors new chicken ad


PIOLO Pascual

MATINEE idol and top young actor Piolo Pascual is the image model of Max's Restaurant, the country's premiere fried chicken house.

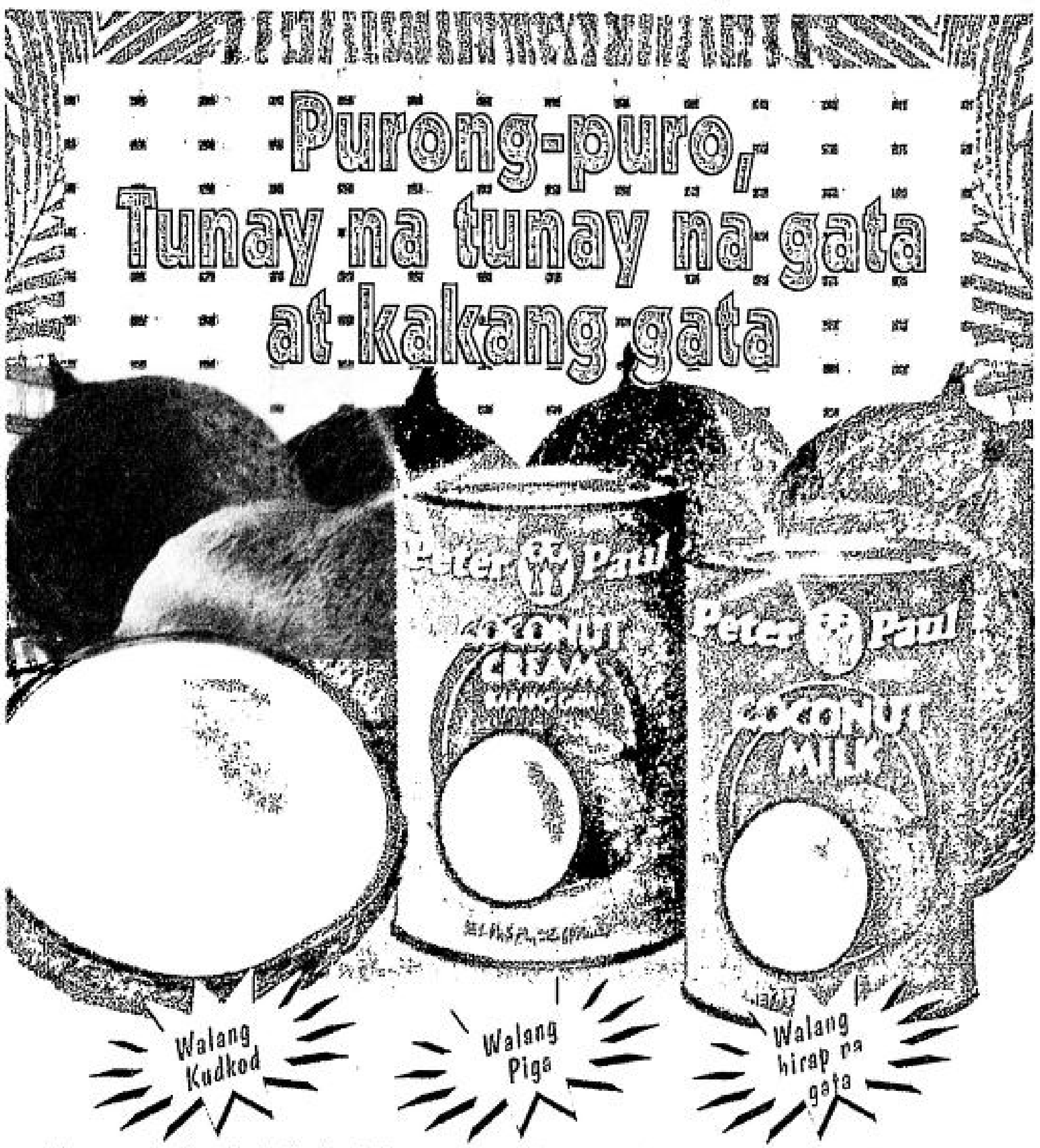
Piolo is the ubiquitous face of the restaurant's newest ad campaign, "Max Masarap." In the television commercial, Piolo relishes every bite of the fried chicken while enjoying the homey atmosphere of the restaurant.

According to Max's, Piolo was picked by the restaurant because of good looks and wholesome image. He reportedly embodies the qualities of the restaurant: family-oriented, Filipino, and accomplished.

Max's is famous for its fried chicken—crispy skinned, batter-free, tender and tasty to the bone. It has branches here and abroad. It has expanded to include delivery through the 535-MAXS delivery service.

Founded in 1945, Max's started as a restaurant catering to GI's. Over the years, its popularity has grown; it has become known as "the house that fried chicken built."

MAX'S Restaurant at Alabang Town Center



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WALANG PIGA
WALANG HIRAP
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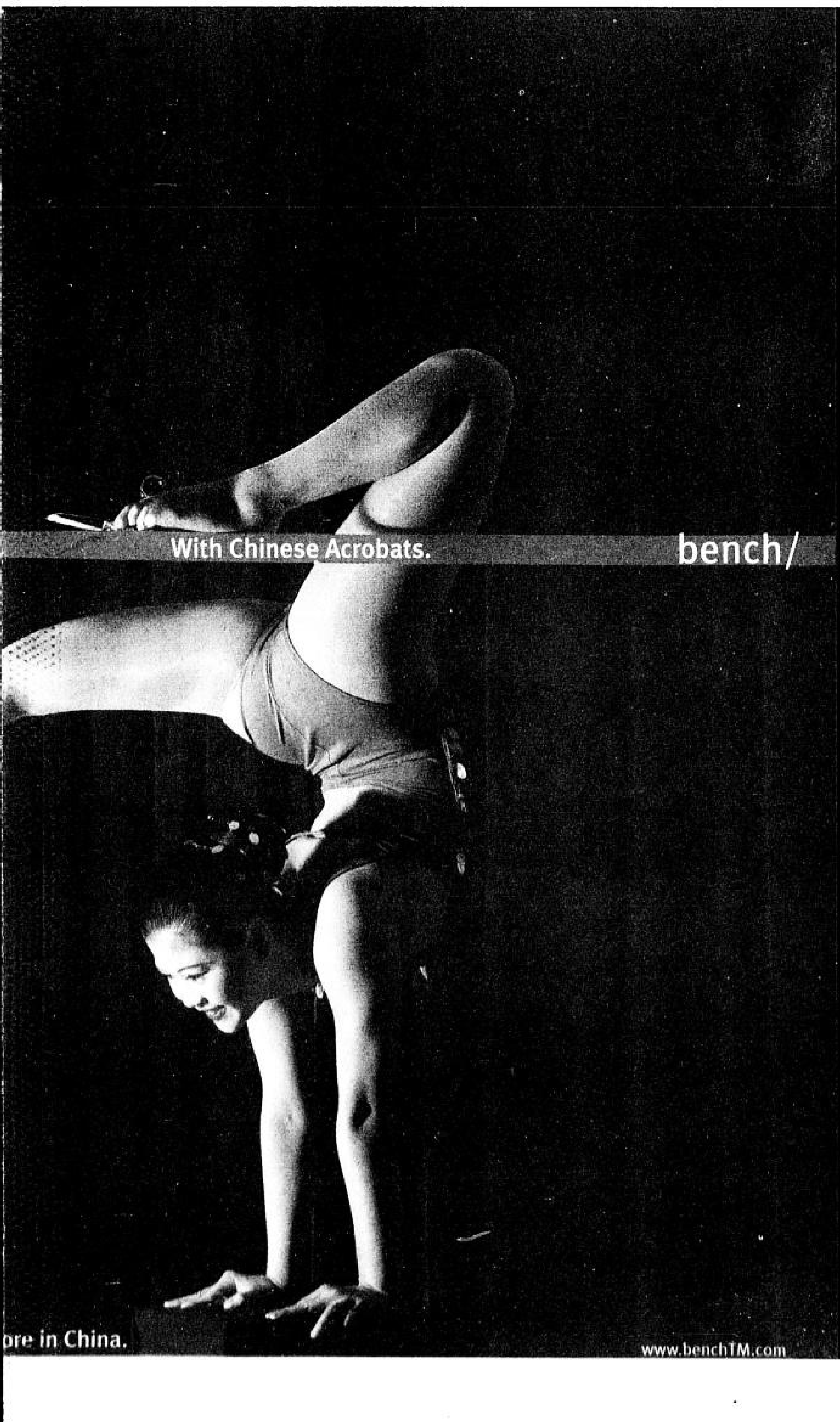
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A Bench exclusive on Aug.1, 7pm at the
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By invitation only.

AYALA CENTER
August 2 to 4
2pm, 4pm and 6pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
August 9 to 11
11am, 3pm and 6pm

AYALA CENTER CEBU
August 16
11:30am, 5pm and 7pm
August 17-18
11:30am, 3pm and 6pm

Also visit the Bench All-Tease Sale.

Linen Glassware Decor Plasticware Kitchenware Furniture

homeSale

August 1 - September 1

SPECIALS
100.00 ea
Assorted Towels

up to 50% off on selected items

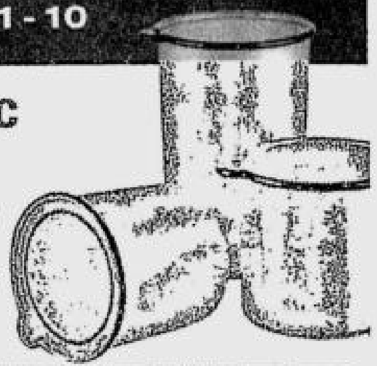
Sesame Street
Sale 30.00 ea Reg 59.75
Mugs
Sale 40.00 ea Reg 79.75
Soup Mugs

free gifts of the week

August 1 - 10

Free **3-pc Plastic Canister Set**

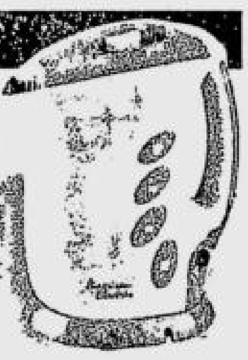
with a minimum P500 purchase in a single receipt at the Linen, Glassware, Decor, Plasticware or Kitchenware Department

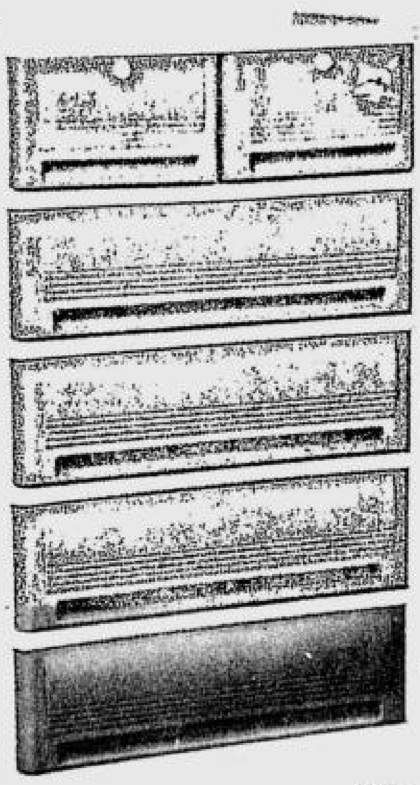


Furniture Section

Free **1.8L Automatic Cordless Kettle**

with a minimum P5,000 purchase in a single receipt at the Furniture Department





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Reg 1,999.75
5-Layer
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1,795.00
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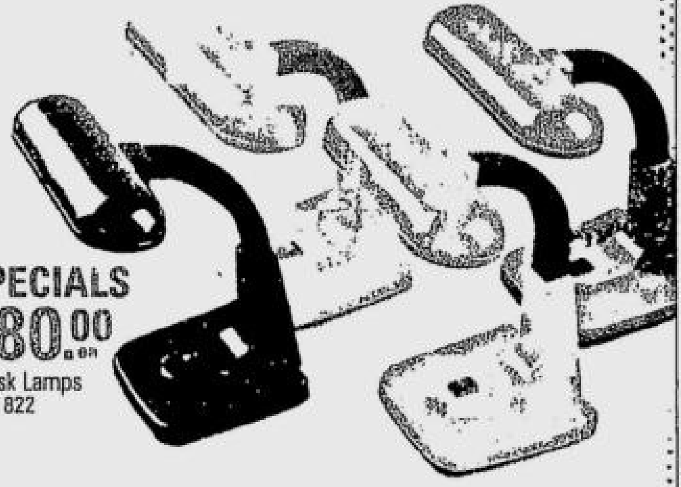
6-Layer



SPECIALS
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Desk Lamps
MT 822

Pack of 2's
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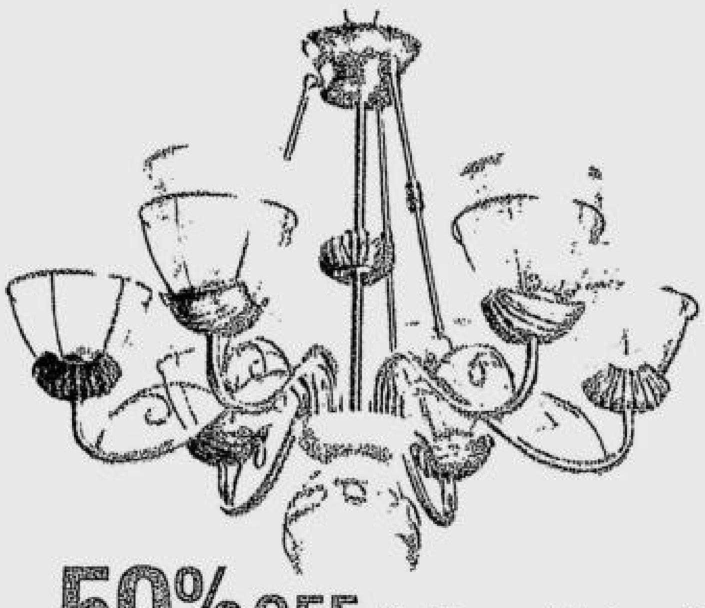
SUNNEX DELUXE 26 / 28cm Non-stick Fry Pans

FREE
18-cm Non-stick Fry Pan

50% OFF **TOWN & COUNTRY** Bedding Sets, assorted sizes



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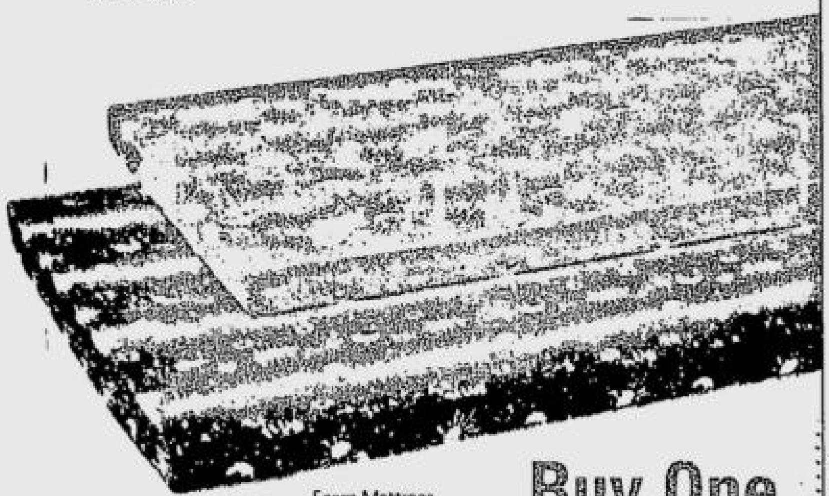
ZEBRA 20-cm Stainless Steel Sauce Pot

FREE 18-cm Sauce Pot



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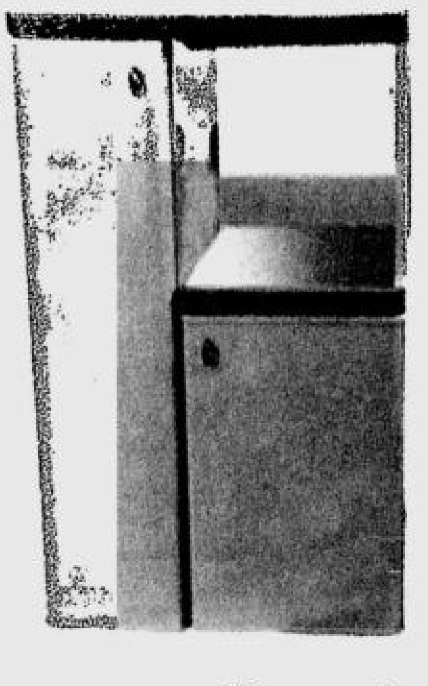

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